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Chapter 1 – Tight Budget

By himself, Xue Ying killed his way into the minor Transcendent Worlds and eradicated a total of three demon bases. The other two bases could only watch it happen as they made their escape!

At that very moment, the state of the war was truly shifted in the entire Xia World!

Before that, large amounts of demons would conceal themselves in various places, filled with confidence! They could do so because the Demonic Avatars of the rank five demons could at any time be casually called for help. And since they were ultimately just avatars, they could continue their wanton slaughter without having to worry about them being killed by the Demigods of the Xia Clan. At worst, they would need to wait two to three years before making a full recovery!

But right now, things had changed!

They had lost their helpers! Even if they reported to the top, would the Demon Generals come to their aid? They wouldn't dare!

In the end, the weak little rank one and two demons were the most abundant, so they made up the main force in charge of discovering the Transcendents of the Xia Clan! But now that they couldn't get help anymore, their combat powers were not enough to simply kill the Transcendents within a breath's worth of time! After all, with the exception of several new Transcendents, even the weakest Transcendents of the Xia Clan were at the peak of the Sky realm. When also taking their Transcendent weapons into account, they would be almost certain to last a breath of time against a rank two demon. Some of those with deeper comprehensions might even retaliate

and kill their assailants!

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“Haha, the five Demon Generals must be so angry they want nothing more than to instantly kill you!” Inside the Infernal Palace, Palace Head Chen was currently walking alongside Xue Ying.

Three days had passed since the battle.

“If they’re capable enough, then by all means, they should.” Xue Ying smiled. Only one who was strong enough could be so confident! The outside world knew that he grasped hold of a grade two True Meaning. But in reality, he had three of them. On top of that, now that he had grasped hold of the True Meaning of Mirage, it had become truly difficult to kill him. Xue Ying could enter the mirage with a single thought.

“Haha, that’s right. One should have this much spirit,” praised Palace Head Chen. “Xue Ying, ah, you truly helped me solve a big problem. I’ve been feeling anxious these previous few years, seeing the Xia Clan’s Transcendents dying one after another! But now, with the destruction of those demon bases, you have truly eliminated the biggest threat to our Xia Clan. Even if the war still continues for a long time, you have already diminished the threat to us by a lot!”

“Mn.” Xue Ying nodded.

“The reason I have decided to look for you this time is that I must tell you a few things. With you having grasped hold of a grade two True Meaning, your status within my Xia Clan has greatly increased. Although you’re not an elder, there isn’t much of a difference between you and them,” Palace Head Chen said as he extended an arm and took out a gold leaf book, which he then passed over to Xue Ying. “This book keeps records of many secrets regarding my Xia Clan.”

“Oh?” Xue Ying’s eyes brightened. He immediately began to read it thoroughly.

So formidable!

The Xia Clan could only tower over the mortal world as the sole overlord because of its extremely deep foundation and the many secrets it held... secrets

that neither Sky realm Transcendents nor Saints were qualified to know! Not even the Demigods of the Temple of the Earth God or the Bloodshed Tavern were qualified to know them.

Although Xue Ying was still at the Saint realm, his grade two True Meaning made it so that nobody saw treated him as such. Demigods would usually view him as an equal.

“So that’s the case.” The more Xue Ying read, the brighter his eyes became. “I didn’t think that my Xia Clan could communicate with the many ancestors still.”

“If the Demon Gods could send down their World Projections, then my Xia Clan’s ancestors, who are powerful Deities can do so as well.” Palace Head Chen sighed in sorrow. “These ancestors hold their homeworld deep in their hearts. They truly don’t care for the price or that we reciprocate their actions. They have done so much for us, and whenever my Xia Clan experienced various difficulties, they would always be thinking of ways to help us get through.”

“Mn.” Xue Ying nodded.

After finishing the book, he somewhat understood how deep of a foundation the Xia Clan had. In fact, there were several clan protection treasures that Xue Ying had read about in the bibliographies of Demigods, albeit just as passing statements...

“You can consider this to be about 90% of the secrets which I had been forbidden from telling you before. Maybe you might have even known about some of them from other sources?” Palace Head Chen laughed. “There is another secret which only palace heads are qualified to know of, in order to prevent it from being leaked! Only this way can the Demonic Faction be prevented from breaking into our clan!”

“I understand.” Xue Ying nodded.

Know yourself and know your enemy, and you will never be defeated.

If their enemies would learn all of the secretive methods of the Xia Clan, then exterminating them would be much easier! Thus, it was necessary to keep secrets.

“In regards to your effort in eradicating the three demon bases,” Palace Head

Chen began, “since you killed 9 rank five demons as well as many other rank four and three demons, I shall award you one million contribution points.”

The reward for killing a rank five demon was 100,000 contribution points!

“You have also eradicated the greatest threat to our Xia Clan, so I’ll add onto that another million contribution points. How is that?” asked Palace Head Chen.

Even if he had not killed a single demon...

As long as he could force a retreat from the five demon bases, the threat would end up disappearing. That was a huge contribution in and of itself. It was impossible to even calculate a price for it. Not even ten million contribution points would be too much! After all, the lives of half of the Transcendents in the Xia Clan were at stake! Previously, during the mission when several Qi and Magic Avatars were sent out with several Demigod grade scrolls and treasures, the total price of their items had already been one million contribution points, and that had merely been a probe!

“That is too many,” replied Xue Ying. Usually, only those among the top ten in the Demigod rankings would receive this many points.

“It’s not too many. Honestly, it could still be considered too few.” Palace Head Chen then suddenly asked with a bit of hesitation, “Xue Ying, I don’t think you would want to exchange all of these points for Origin Stones, right? Still, If you do want to exchange them, even for two million kilograms of Origin Stones... my Xia Clan may help you do so!”

“No need, no need,” Xue Ying added.

That would be too extravagant.

According to the regulations imposed by the Xia Clan, when a Demigod exchanged for Origin Stones, the maximum amount was a million kilograms! What if they wanted more? They would either have to buy them from other Demigods, or visit the minor and major Transcendent Worlds and dig the stones out themselves! Either way, the Xia Clan could not provide that many Origin Stones.

And that was because they also had a limited amount of Origin Stones.

If they were to give away their Origin Stones to any single Demigod, then the others would no longer have enough to use! Nevertheless, most of the Demigods were quite lacking in points, so they would rather spend their time slowly cultivating and absorbing the energy of the world to raise their realms.

One cultivated their physique the same way.

To get from the peak of the Sky Realm to the early Saint realm, one needed 50,000 kilograms of Origin Stones! Xue Ying had already raised his physical body to the early Saint realm.

In order to further improve it to the middle stage, one required a terrifying two million kilograms of Origin Stones!

Getting it from the middle to the peak Saint realm? The amount of Origin Stones needed was so large that even if one dug out every Origin Stone in all of the Transcendent Worlds around the Xia World, it would still not be sufficient! That was a message passed down from the Deity World! Therefore, the supposed requirement of attaining a second awakening of the primordial bloodline upon reaching the peak stage of the Saint Realm was nothing more than a wistful dream for mortals. It could only become reality in the Deity World or in the Dark Abyss!

The total amount of Origin Stones the Xia Clan had accumulated was truly not very large!

Exchanging contribution points for weapons? For treasures? Mage Equipment? Or Refiner Organisms? All of these were matters the Xia Clan could agree upon. But if one wished to exchange for Origin Stones... the Xia Clan would have to limit the amount.

“The others may not, but you can!” said Palace Head Chen. “The contribution that you have brought, as well as your grade two True Meaning make it worth it for my Xia Clan to break the rules! That way, your body can reach the middle stage of the Saint realm, and thus increase your chances at a second awakening. By then, your combat power will have become even more formidable!”

“No need. There’s truly no need for this,” Xue Ying continued declining.

He had already prepared himself to enter the Black Wind Deity Palace!

Breaking through the Black Wind Deity Palace meant he could sweep through the major Transcendent World it was connected to! A major Transcendent World truly was a huge treasure cove. If he needed more Origin Stones, he could just go and dig them out himself; why ask the Xia Clan for two million kilograms considering their already limited amount? Xue Ying understood from the hesitation Palace Head Chen had shown when asking that he would truly have a headache if the transaction went through.

Being the head was truly not easy!

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Chapter 2 – Hello Again, Black Dragon

“The decision lies with you. I won’t force you either way.” Palace Head Chen nodded.

Xue Ying hesitantly said, “Palace Head Chen, actually, the Deity warrior I am currently carrying is no longer required! Considering my current ability, I can survive even without it. I’ll first borrow this Deity Warrior for my disciple sister Jing Qiu to use. Is that alright?”

“It’s fine; it’s fine.” Palace Head Chen laughed. “I truly don’t know what to say about the two of you... if your disciple sister Jing Qiu becomes a Demigod in the future, I think her combat power won’t be any worse than yours! She might even surpass you if you don’t work hard enough in the future!”

“Oh?” Xue Ying was startled. “She’ll become stronger than me if I don’t keep working hard? Jing Qiu, she...”

He hadn’t noticed it.

Although Jing Qiu was quite talented in terms of cultivation, she couldn’t be considered particularly outstanding!

“As soon as she becomes a Demigod, she will be able to control the strongest clan protection treasure of my Xia Clan!” Palace Head Chen hid nothing from him. “At that point, her combat power will be enough to suppress any other Demigod. She might even match the might of a Deity!”

“The strongest clan protection treasure? Ancestor Snow?” Xue Ying was truly stunned this time. He had previously seen the Xia Clan’s records regarding their strongest clan protection treasure.

“Mn.” Palace head Chen nodded. “Therefore, one of the protective treasures I had previously given her was actually a Deity warrior as well! Though, Jing Qiu

herself does not yet know of its existence.”

Xue Ying let out a breath of relief.

That was good.

The same way that a Deity Warrior was hidden within one of the treasures given to him by Palace Head Chen that year, Jing Qiu also had one with her.

“Ancestor Snow?” Xue Ying was still surprised by that.

He would depend on his comprehension of True Meanings in order to sweep through every other Demigod, reaching the pinnacle of the Xia Clan’s World! At that point, he might even have the combat power to match ordinary Deities!

Meanwhile, Jing Qiu would depend on the strongest clan protection treasure of the Xia Clan! With its terrifying power... she would similarly suppress anyone else for an entire generation!

“You must continue working hard; otherwise, you will just stand there ashamed as your woman overtakes you,” joked Palace Head Chen.

“It wouldn’t be shameful!” Xue Ying’s mood was quite pleasant at the moment.

“You should also help her and not delay her cultivation! Although my Xia Clan is secretly giving her plenty of resources, becoming a Demigod is still too difficult,” said Palace Head Chen. “She won’t be able to use the Deity weapon unless she becomes a Demigod.”

“I understand.”

Xue Ying was now truly reassured. With a Deity warrior secretly protecting her, she would no longer be in any danger while chasing after traces of demons!

“Palace Head Chem, I would like to learn more of the Black Wind Deity Palace as well as its owner!” Xue Ying suddenly asked. With his current combat power, he would have a greater chance of success. Naturally, he wanted to go visit the Black Wind Deity Palace.

“The Black Wind Deity Palace?” Palace Head Chen was stunned for a moment before reacting in a flash. “Oh. You mean the Black Wind Deity Palace that’s close to your Snowrock Castle? If I recall correctly, the place you fell into before

becoming a Legend ranker was precisely the Black Wind Abyss, right?"

Xue Ying nodded.

"No wonder you are so curious about it. Why do you plan to break through the palace?" Palace Head Chen asked.

"I would like to try. I heard that even by now, no Transcendent has ever managed to succeed," answered Xue Ying.

"Right." Palace Head Chen continued, "There have been many Transcendents who tried their luck. Yet even after countless tens of thousands of years since its establishment by Ancestor Black Wind, not a single Transcendent has managed to succeed!"

"The arrays left behind couldn't be broken by anyone even though he's dead?" The Xue Ying of that year was quite ignorant. He now understood a bit more about how powerful the Black Wind Palace Head was! Even a Xia Clan Demigod mage could leave behind a set of arrays in a Deity Palace which would cause Transcendents to be helpless for a few tens of thousand of years.

Palace Head Chen laughed. "Although it is kind of humiliating, Ancestor Black Wind was indeed a very powerful Demigod mage! If he were alive now, he could also suppress any other existence for a generation. His combat power was much stronger than Mountain Lord He's, and his achievements in many different areas such as spells, arrays and refiner puppets were very high. Still, you should try it. Then you will also understand how hard it is to break through the palace."

"I have seen the records on Ancestor Black Wind, and he had only grasped hold of a grade three True Meaning. How could he be so powerful? Although, having read through it carefully, am I right to have noticed that certain aspects were only briefly noted?" asked Xue Ying.

"He was a mage. Even among True Meanings of similar grades, there are different levels of utilization of the Laws of Profound Mysteries in their spells, which results in displays of power at varying levels. Ancestor Black Wind was a truly capable mage! Only briefly noted? That's because various miraculous opportunities in his life allowed him to attain a combat power that nobody could compete with. Still, in the end, he could not become a Deity. As a result,

he did something truly crazy in an attempt to increase his combat power. But some of his actions relate to the secrets of our Xia Clan, so those parts were censored,” explained Palace Head Chen.

“And you can’t tell me about it?” Xue Ying asked.

“No,” said Palace Head Chen.

Xue Ying curled his lips.

He had done a truly crazy thing?

What exactly was it that even with his current status, Palace Head Chen would still not tell him?

Palace Head Chen laughed. “You should just go and try it, but remember to be careful! Ancestor Black Wind might have set down some rules in order to prevent Transcendents of the Xia Clan from dying, but the opposing power could still be great enough to kill you.”

“I understand.” Xue Ying felt relaxed.

First of all, Ancestor Black Wind did not hold any hatred towards the Transcendents of the Xia Clan. Secondly, he had the mirage!

I refuse to believe that a dead Demigod mage has the means to harm me inside my mirage!

“If you are to succeed and you discover certain treasures which would be of great help to my Xia Clan...” Palace Head Chen hesitated, but he still continued with emphasis, “And, if they’re of no use to yourself, you can just exchange them for some other treasures.”

“Treasures that are of a huge help to the Xia Clan?” Xue Ying felt something was amiss.

“You grasped hold of a grade two True Meaning. Even if you do not succeed this time around, I trust that as your comprehension of the realms deepens, you will still be able to succeed,” said Palace Head Chen. “You will understand everything as soon as you break through the Black Wind Deity Palace. According to my knowledge, the treasures inside the Black Wind Deity Palace are all extraordinary! If it weren’t for the treasures self-destructing if one tried to take

them by force, the previous two emperors would have taken them long ago."

"Mn." Xue Ying was now even more curious.

Palace Head Chen had been mentioning something without elaborating on it.

What exactly was the Black-Wind Deity Palace?

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After bidding his farewell to Palace Head Chen, Xue Ying went to the Water Daoist Faction and used about 20,000 contribution points to exchange for various treasures. They were all for his parents, his little brother, Uncle Zong, and Uncle Tong. He would also save some for the use of his clan's descendants.

As for weapons and armors?

The increase Demigod treasures brought to Xue Ying's combat power had deteriorated to a very low amount. Furthermore, mid and top grade Demigod rank treasures made no difference at all to him! On top of that, the Stellar Fire Cloud Spear was a weapon which suited him perfectly, as it had no arrays imprinted on it. Usually, top grade Demigod and Deity weapons were so powerful due to the arrays which provided many unique functions when imprinted on them.

But the Stellar Fire Cloud Spear had no array imprinted throughout its entire body! It relied purely on its material strength, which determined its grade to be at the mid grade Demigod rank. Even the Xia Clan found it to be extremely extravagant and wasteful. There had even been some rumors that it had been left behind by a guest from the outerworld.

Its material strength alone was enough to give it such great strength. These materials had to be more expensive and precious than those used in top grade Demigod rank weapons.

The material resistance induced by the Extreme Piercing worked best in combination with the Stellar Fire Cloud Spear! It could pierce through Demigod Treasures with a single stab!

As the year ended...

Although spring arrived, it remained extremely cold. The Water Rites Town was still filled with the accumulated snow.

A young female and male couple were currently flying in the sky.

“That year, I fought Xiang Pang Yun. While we were fighting, I kept trying to escape.” Xue Ying and Jing Qiu followed the path he had taken when escaping. “That situation had truly been dangerous for me. Had I continued fighting on the Snowrock Mountain, I’m afraid I would have died by his hand. After all, his true identity was that of a mutated beast.”

“Look, that’s the Black-Wind Cliff.” Xue Ying and Jing Qiu flew towards it.

“I know, Disciple Brother Xue Ying had fallen off right at this very place.” Jing Qiu flew towards the top of the Abyss before looking carefully downwards. The huge black gale had formed a maelstrom of many thousands of meters in radius. Furthermore, that was merely the outermost disturbance caused by the Black Wind maelstrom. The further one went, the stronger it became.

“I was truly lucky that year.” Xue Ying looked at this maelstrom while recalling the life and death battle he had gone through.

Truly lucky.

If there had been no cracks in the valley which allowed him to enter the underground palace, he would have long died from hunger!

“Relying solely on luck is not enough. Combat power is important too.” Jing Qiu was wearing a thick white gown. She felt worried for Xue Ying. “Disciple Brother Xue Ying, you must be careful.”

“Rest assured. I have a Deity warrior with me.” Xue Ying laughed. “Even if you don’t believe me, you should at least believe in the Deity warrior.”

“I believe in you.” Jing Qiu nodded. “But one can never be too careful.”

As the two talked...

“You two brats bickering on top of my head, can’t you move somewhere else?” All of a sudden, a powerful area approached them from below. One could see only an enormous figure coming out through the black gale. Soon, a huge black dragon head popped out of it. Its pair of golden eyes were filled with

resentment as he looked towards the two figures standing atop the maelstrom.

It seemed that from the perspective of the black dragon, these two were just ordinary Transcendents.

“It’s been awhile.” Xue Ying laughed.

“You are?” The black dragon’s golden eyes were full of doubt. He could not think of who this black-robed teenager might be.

“Do you still remember the mortal teenager who fell into this Black Wind Abyss 50 years ago?” Xue Ying smiled. That time, it was this black dragon who made him feel suffocated with fear. But now, he was able to determine with a single gaze that he was merely a powerful Demigod grade refiner organism.

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Chapter 3 – Battle with Black Dragon

If the protector of the outermost perimeter of the Black Wind Deity Palace, the Black Wind Abyss, was already this strong, just how powerful would the defenses further in be? What about the innermost part of the Deity Palace? It was no wonder that for hundreds of thousands of years, not even a single Transcendent had been able to get inside! Even when compared with the strongest ranker of the Xia Clan, Mountain Lord He, there would still a large gap between them. Xue Ying only dared to make this attempt because he had three different grade two True Meanings.

It didn't matter much whether he succeeded or failed. Either way, he would still be able to enter the Deity Palace through the crack at the bottom of the valley and access the major Transcendent World from there!

“50 years ago?” A trace of suspicion appeared in the Black Dragon’s enormous golden eyes. “I have some impression of it.”

Back then, a black-clothed youth had fallen down with great speed while engulfed by a black maelstrom!

The Black Dragon could only fleetingly glance through the dense black wind.

“Oh, that was you.” The Black Dragon inspected Xue Ying’s facial features and laughed loudly. “Haha, I never thought that after 50 years, the mortal from back then would become a peak Saint Transcendent!”

“Fortunately, we didn’t exchange any moves at that time. If we had, I surely would’ve died without even getting a chance to resist,” Xue Ying grinned.

“I cannot do anything against mortals! My master has ordered me to attack only Transcendents,” said the immense Black Dragon. “Why do you, having now

become a Saint Transcendent, wish to charge at me in vain?"

"Indeed, I want to give it a try." Xue Ying smiled faintly.

"Brat, it would be better if you stayed away. Go back to your Xia Capital and carefully research the Black Wind Deity Palace. Not just anyone can enter this place. Even if I don't wish to kill you, what if I accidentally use too much power in my attacks? I'm afraid that you might just die from any small attack!" The Black Dragon deliberately released a violent wave of air, causing the entire Black Wind Maelstrom to fluctuate. "Chi Qiu Bai, the genius of your Xia Clan, failed to defeat me when he was a Saint Transcendent. Although he can defeat me now that he has become a Demigod and wields a deity weapon, I'm just the outermost guardian. The other powerful guardians from the inner part of the Black Wind Deity Palace could defeat him easily. He is far too weak!"

"Tell me, can you, a little Saint Transcendent guy, succeed where even he has failed?" inquired the Black Dragon.

"But I still want to give it a try!" Xue Ying laughed.

"*Hou~* you, a Saint Transcendent? You cannot defeat me. Come, I shall let you try." The head of the Black Dragon howled. Its voice caused the surrounding area to tremble, and the sound waves made Xue Ying and Jing Qiu pale.

"Such terrifying force! These sound waves alone are so formidable!" Jing Qiu was surprised.

"Maybe its brute force is comparable to a peak Demigod," Xue Ying agreed.

"This much power, yet it's still just an outer guardian?" Jing Qiu was amazed by the Elder Black Dragon's might. When Xue Ying had told her that he wanted to break into the Black Wind Deity Palace, her habits as a Transcendent Mage led her to investigate any information related to it. Even so, she was still shocked. "Be careful, Disciple Brother Xue Ying. The Black Wind Ancestor is definitely a Deity Mage, and mages tend to be very meticulous and thorough. The mechanisms he left behind could block Transcendents from attaining his treasures for hundreds of thousands of years."

"Rest assured, just wait for me outside," said Xue Ying with full confidence.

"Mn."

Jing Qiu immediately flew back to the Black Wind cliff's edge and remained there to watch.

The Black Wind Abyss was very wide, spanning for more than a kilometer.

That black maelstrom was very violent, enveloping everything down there. But the Black Dragon head was like a mountain peak, standing at more than ten meters in height.

"Brat, do you really want to try this? It can kill you."

"Even so, I want to try." Xue Ying said while looking up from beneath him.

"Tell me your name," the Black Dragon head inquired. It also began to reevaluate Xue Ying. After all, other than the few foolish ones, most people who dared to barge in here usually had some skill.

"My name is Dong Bo Xue Ying!"

"Good!"

Hong~

An enormous silhouette rapidly floated up from the dense black wind. A Black Dragon, several thousands of meters long, appeared. It coiled around in the air and stared at Xue Ying with its golden eyes. A tyrannical, hard-to-conceal aura emitted from its body, pressuring Xue Ying.

"What a powerful force," praised Xue Ying.

The difference between a human and an enormous, thousands-of-meters-long black dragon was too big. Xue Ying looked like a dot in front of it.

Its huge body also provided the black dragon with enormous power! Even Chi Qiu Bai, who had strong offensive power, was defeated by the Black Dragon when he was a Saint Transcendent. It might be weak in terms of techniques, but even with just its raw power, it was comparable to that of a peak Demigod and was able to block the majority of Transcendents. And it was only the outer guardian!

"Come!" The Black Dragon soared up until its head was level with the Black Wind cliff's edge. It looked down at the minuscule Xue Ying with furious golden eyes before suddenly diving down with its mouth wide open, attempting to

swallow Xue Ying.

“It’s starting!” Waiting above, Jing Qiu became extremely nervous. This Black Dragon had great might.

Xue Ying looked towards the Black Dragon, especially his extremely sharp teeth. As a Demigod refiner organism, the material it was made of had an impressive toughness.

But...

Xue Ying was in no hurry to escape. Instead, he hovered calmly mid-air, looking down at the fast approaching large, bloodied mouth!

“Mn?” the black dragon was puzzled. *Why isn’t he evading? Does he want to fight head-on?* A Saint Transcendent daring to fight head-on with it—did he want to be bullied?

“Expel!” Xue Ying suddenly shouted.

Weng!

Invisible Laws of Profound Mysteries formed a domain and immediately enveloped the dragon that was charging over! The Black Dragon’s body suddenly tensed up as an invisible force seemed to envelop its whole body. It tried to struggle free, but was unable to resist the invisible force and directly flew backwards.

It was pushed back at high speed!

With a loud *hong!* sound, the thousands-of-meters-long Black Dragon flattened like a crepe onto the Black Wind Abyss mountain wall. It still tried to resist, but was powerless to do so.

The True Meaning of Star’s Gravity Domain!

“Ah!” Jing Qiu stared at the scene in front of her with amazement. She didn’t even see her Disciple Brother Xue Ying move, and that overbearing Black Dragon had already been flattened against the Black Wind Abyss mountain wall! Thankfully, the mountain wall was protected by magic arrays, so it remained intact. Otherwise, this kind of impact would have caused any tall mountain to crumble.

“What is going on, this, this...” No matter how it tried to move its body, the invisible force was too powerful for it to break free from the mountain wall.

“You lost.” Xue Ying smiled. The Gravity Domain enveloped the surrounding 50 kilometers around him. It was the same for Extreme Piercing; anything in that area, regardless of distance, was under his control. Simply said, the Laws of Profound Mysteries like the Gravity Domain and Extreme Piercing could affect an area of 50 kilometers in a radius around him. However, in order to prevent the unnecessary involvement of mortals, Xue Ying had concentrated the Gravity Domain around himself and the Black Dragon.

If his opponent had been a human Demigod, perhaps his Gravity Domain wouldn’t have brought such a big advantage.

Who told it to have such an enormous body?

Under the might of gravity, its thousands of meters long body suffered much, much more than a human Demigod’s would have. Even with its Demigod power, under the pressure caused by Gravity Domain, it was still unable to break free from the mountain wall.

“I, I...” the Black Dragon was furious, but it was unable to do anything under the attraction power. Its huge, golden eyes filled with unwillingness as it let out a low growl. “I lost!”

Weng.

Xue Ying willed the Gravity Domain to cease with a thought.

Only after that was the Black Dragon able to free itself from the mountain wall. It had felt really uncomfortable to be stuck there.

“Brat, don’t be so proud! I didn’t expect you to grasp such a strange aspect of the True Meaning of Gravity!” The Black Dragon was dissatisfied. It was such a disgrace for itself to be defeated by a Saint Transcendent. “This True Meaning of Gravity might be able to restrain me, but it can’t be used for battle. I’m only the first guardian. The other Black Wind Palace guardians are far more dangerous than me!”

“Thank you for your warning.” Xue Ying chuckled, then looked up at Jing Qiu on top of the Black Wind Cliff. “Jing Qiu, wait for me here. I will go down to see

how powerful this Black Wind Palace is.”

“Disciple Brother Xue Ying, be careful,” said Jing Qiu. At the same time, she was secretly surprised. Hadn’t her Disciple Brother comprehended the grade two True Meaning of Extreme Piercing? When had he also comprehend the True Meaning of Gravity? But she understood that by using it in front of her, Xue Ying showed that he trusted her.

Sou.

Xue Ying rapidly descended, the black wind maelstrom having no effect on him. It felt like a breeze for the current him.

“Defeated by a Saint Transcendent. I was defeated by a Saint Transcendent?” the Black Dragon still couldn’t accept it. “50 years ago, he was just a mere mortal!” That year, he hadn’t been bothered to care about the fallen human youth. In its eyes, there was no difference between him and an ant—they were both just as weak.. Who could have imagined that that same human would now be able to press him onto the mountain wall, leaving him unable to struggle free.

“He was just lucky to have restrained me. Soon, he will suffer! I have to go down and watch it!”

The Black Dragon wriggled its body, and, flinging itself forward as it flew down.

Chapter 4 – Exploration

Hong!

Xue Ying flew downwards at top speed like a sharp sword, with the enormous Black Dragon following him from behind.

“Human Transcendent, it seems that you are still a Saint. Why do you even dare to rush down so recklessly?”

“Has the Black Dragon been defeated?”

“You all haven’t seen the battle, but I did. That black robed teenager was standing there in mid-air without making a move, yet the Black Dragon was suppressed to the point he could do nothing to resist!” Several refiner organisms living in the Black Wind Abyss were discussing among them. They had much weaker levels of combat power, most of them being at the Saint realm.

Since even the Black Dragon had been defeated, they definitely couldn’t resist against Xue Ying.

Hu!

Having continually dived down the extremely deep Black Wind Abyss, they had already reached an underground zone...

When I saw these Transcendent refiner organisms back then, I felt that each and every one of them were truly too powerful and terrifying. Xue Ying sighed. Yet looking at them closer, other than the Black Dragon which is a Demigod, the others are just Saints! As for those soldiers and officers formed by the arrays—they don’t even have a speck of wisdom! With only the most basic of instincts, their combat power is definitely even weaker.

That year, he was merely a Legend ranker. With his comprehension of the

Myriad Existence of Fire, he had killed a black-armored soldier.

“Kill!” The black armorer soldiers and officers were looking at Xue Ying coldly. As they only had the most basic of instincts, they charged towards Xue Ying with no emotion, no fear.

Hong! Xue Ying immediately displayed his True Meaning of Gravity.

The terrifying gravitational force immediately pressed down on the bodies of the black-armored soldiers and officers. The weak and small soldiers were immediately and completely torn apart, while the officers flew backwards as they started crumbling...as they turned into a black-colored fog! This fog remained in the surroundings and even tried condensing back to their original forms, however, under the gravitational power's might, they had no way of condensing into actual figures!

Xue Ying finally arrived at the valley without making a sound.

He turned towards the gouge nearby. This was none other than the gouge formed when he fell down as a Legend ranker.

“Let's visit the Black Wind Deity Palace.” Xue Ying immediately continued towards his destination. Under the repulsion force of his gravitational control, everywhere he went, all the black-armored guards who came charging in his direction, whether they were officers or soldiers, crumbled into black fog.

“Truly powerful.”

“What exactly is this unseen force used by this human Transcendent?”

“This should be the True Meaning of Gravity!”

Those refiner organisms were muttering amongst themselves as they followed behind from a distance. The enormous Black Dragon stayed at the rear as it followed.

Xue Ying shot a glance towards the group of refiner organisms following behind him. *Ancestor Black Wind has indeed refined many organisms! Of them, more than ten are Saints, and there was even a Demigod placed outside the palace! Where did he obtain the materials to make this many refiner organisms, not to mention the Black Dragon with its huge body?*

The Xia Clan also contained quite a lot of Transcendent refiner organisms. For instance, the Hundred Battles Chamber had a grand total of one hundred! But their builds were usually quite small, with the exception of Sky realm refiner organisms who might have had bigger figures as the materials used to refine them were lower in quality.

But a Demigod realm refiner organism that was over a thousand meters long?

Palace Head Chen wouldn't give me any details on this matter, thought Xue Ying. This Black Wind Deity Palace...must contain some deep secrets.

As he walked on, he soon reached the majestic cavern palace which was currently glowing in a dull azure light.

The initial group of black-armored guards on patrol were turned into black fog under the gravitational power—none of them had the means to obstruct him.

The main door of this palace was truly lofty. It was about a hundred meters tall and dark-green in color.

“Open!”

Xue Ying waved his hand.

Hong!

The dazzling fiery-red Transcendent Qi formed into a dozen meters long palm. This gigantic palm was covered in a layer of True Meaning of Star and was filled with a tremendous power! When comparing the strength of the different True Meanings, one of the famous ones was the True Meaning of Star—it was akin to a star smashing down! Therefore, it was the most appropriate to use this True Meaning for opening the door. A loud sound accompanied the palm as it slapped on the ancient, dark-green door.

The palace door opened by more than half, revealing the scene within.

The inside of the cavern palace...was just filled with white fog!

White fog? Xue Ying frowned as he carefully observed it. This white fog was diffused throughout the inner part of the palace, shrouding it from view. At times, one could vaguely catch the sight of copper red pillars within.

“Dong Bo Xue Ying,” a mighty voice sounded out all of a sudden. The Black

Dragon flew close to Xue Ying's back, its head especially reaching to his side.

Xue Ying looked towards it and asked, "What's the matter?"

"The Black Wind Deity Palace is also the place where my master cultivated at in the past!" said the Black Dragon. "My master didn't want any small, weak Transcendent not even knowing their own strength to charge inside. That is why he set up the several simple arrays around the outer perimeter of the palace. With the black-armored guards patrolling and the refiner organisms situated outside, we've been able to chase away any Transcendent who came. In all honesty, the black-armored guards and the Saint refiner organisms have been in charge of the miscellaneous tasks, while I alone truly guarded the outer perimeter!"

Xue Ying nodded.

He could tell. If one had to fight it head-on without the True Meaning of Gravity, triumphing over the Black Dragon would be quite tough.

However, the Laws of Profound Mysteries were as such!

So what if your strength is enormous! Under the suppression of the Laws of Profound Mysteries, even if you were stronger, as long as you couldn't display that strength, you would still end up just playing around in the palm of the suppressor.

"I am actually the most worthless of my master's underlings!" exclaimed the Black Dragon. "That is why I am the one who guards the outer perimeter of the palace. There are truly many dangers inside the deity palace, especially those patches of white fog...which conceal the threat of death! After entering, you must remember to be extremely prudent. The moment you feel that something is amiss, you must immediately shout out 'I admit defeat.' Even if you will be thrown out of the palace, you can at least survive!"

"I understand. Thank you." Xue Ying laughed. He could truly feel good will coming from the Black Dragon. After all, Black Wind was also one of the ancestors of the Xia Clan, which meant he would treat his descendants with a softer approach! That is also why Jing Qiu, Palace Head Chen, and the others hadn't stopped Xue Ying from coming.

But Xue Ying was still quite weak at the moment!

He couldn't rank in the top 10 Demigod ranking with his direct attack power, much less compare to Mountain Lord He and some of the other Demigods. Neither Mountain Lord He nor Faction Head Si Kong Yang had broken through the palace; they had been defeated and were left with no choice but to leave. Considering that, the attacking power of this palace had to be truly unimaginable. Xue Ying could die at any moment if he was careless.

.....

Xue Ying went towards the palace entrance alone.

The enormous Black Dragon entrenched outside the cavern palace was worried. He had great expectations for Xue Ying, who, at the Saint realm, was so formidable. He must have been the genius of the Xia Clan, so the dragon was really afraid that Xue Ying might actually die inside. It would be such a pity if he did.

Dong.

Xue Ying walked past the doorstep and entered the main hall of the cavern palace.

White fog continued pervading around him.

“Mn?” Xue Ying frowned as he tried sensing around him. The Gravity Domain was also enveloping his surroundings. Even though he did not activate its might, he could still clearly sense every single location in his domain.

His Gravity Domain could barely envelop this main hall, for if he delved any deeper into the palace, the domain would be rejected immediately by an unseen array.

There is an array in this Black Wind Deity Palace which could actually block my gravitational force from investigating further? Xue Ying was stunned. Gravitational force was truly hard to isolate; the difficulty was on the same level as isolating Extreme Piercing.

And this palace has even obstructed my Extreme Piercing as well.

There was an unseen power enveloping the whole Black Wind Deity Palace.

Xue Ying tried using his Extreme Piercing, only to realize that he could not penetrate through the space around him. It made Xue Ying curious. That time, the Temporal Temple Reincarnators had prepared beforehand by purchasing an expensive array able to obstruct Xue Ying.

But this Ancestor Black Wind had done no such thing!

The Black Wind Deity Palace had existed for many tens of thousands of years, blocking generation after generation of Transcendents from passing through!

He truly was a powerful mage who could suppress an entire generation! This Deity Palace he left behind after his death is enough to have made so many generations of Transcendents of the Xia Clan over the past tens of thousands of years feel helpless when facing it. Xue Ying gasped in admiration. At the same time, he became even more careful when sensing his surroundings, and a spear had long since appeared in his hand soundlessly.

“Xue Ying, be careful. I can sense a special existence in your surrounding spying on you. He is right beside you!” an undulation transmitted into Xue Ying’s mind. The origin of this transmission was none other than the green-gray wristband on his arm.

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Chapter 5 – The Gatekeeper

Right next to me? Xue Ying was startled. After receiving the Black Dragon's reminder, he had been extremely careful when entering this palace hall, and did his best to extend his senses all around him. The Black Dragon's mention of a danger lying in the white fog had caused Xue Ying to further increase his cautiousness.

Bu he had not discovered the enemy!

It was the Deity warrior that discovered it!

Hong! Xue Ying did not hesitate in activating his Gravity Domain. The mighty force of repulsion pushed away all matter in his surroundings, whether it be the pillars of the hall, or the permeating white fog. Against the power of gravity, they had all been easily pushed away. However, although the permeating fog had momentarily drifted away, it soon recovered stability once again—the gravitational force could do nothing to push it away.

Something is amiss. My gravitational force could kill any ordinary peak stage Saint demon, yet this fog was able to resist it? Xue Ying was alarmed.

Weng~

Part of the pervading white fog in the surrounding suddenly condensed out into a figure. It had the shape of an ape wielding two blades.

“Die!” Although the White Fog Ape remained illusory, there were some vague signs of lightning in its eyes..

Si la—

It immediately reached Xue Ying with a move that left behind traces of lightning. Its two fog blades were terrifying.

The White Fog Ape condensing and then slashing its blades had both happened in the blink of an eye.

Dang!

Xue Ying was extremely vigilant as his conditional reflex triggered him to simply stab out with his spear. The movement of the spear was followed by traces of black space threads! It couldn't tear space itself open, though, as it had been sealed shut. As the spear smashed against the white blades, a sound of metal clashing resounded outwards. Despite having to take a step back due to the great force, Xue Ying continued stabbing out with his spear.

Shua shua shua!

In a moment, hundreds if not thousands traces caused by black space threads had appeared. The Stellar Fire Cloud Spear turned into a dense shadow as Xue Ying maniacally struck out against the White Fog Ape!

Faster, faster, faster! He increased his speed to his maximum.

Xue Ying did not have the time to think. He was depending entirely on his instincts to stab out with his spear. The True Meaning of Extreme Piercing had, by nature, a truly frightening spear, a trait which was being displayed to its fullest at that very moment.

He stabbed even while retreating, he stabbed when he advanced, he stabbed when turning.

Lines after lines of black threads formed... what seemed like an inescapable net!

Dang dang dang! The sound of weapons clashing resounded at extremely close intervals of time. The White Fog Ape was maniacally slashing out with its double blades as well. The blades of his condensed weapons had the feeling of emptiness granted by the white fog while also enhanced with the element of lightning. Its speed was similarly frightening.

The two sides competed on speed!

Defending against the Extreme Piercing once was nothing much. But for it to defend against thousands of attacks with Extreme Piercing was a different matter altogether.

It actually defended from it. Xue Ying was startled. Although this White Fog Ape is stronger than me, my True Meaning of Extreme Piercing is more profound than his, yet it still managed to directly block my attack. On top of that, it is really fast, and its blade techniques have lightning and fog incorporated into them. By comparison, the Black Dragon is big and powerful, but its fighting techniques are too crude.

Hu.

Suddenly, the White Fog Ape took a step back and stopped while its lightning covered eyes continued staring at Xue Ying. “Human Transcendent, the True Meaning incorporated in your spear techniques is truly strange. Its penetrative force is continuously digging into my blades, greatly reducing the speed of my techniques! Without that, I would have long since defeated you.”

Xue Ying was shocked on the inside.

So its speed was even faster than this? That’s right. Even though it could defend against his Extreme Piercing, the power inherent power of the Extreme Piercing could still affect some of its blade techniques.

“You can defend yourself against one of me... but what there were four?” The White Fog Ape suddenly sneered.

His figure started separating into four different illusory figures.

The four illusory figures gathered the surrounding white fog before forming four White Fog Apes! These four White Fog Apes were carrying two blades on each of their hands. They stared at Xue Ying.

Four? Xue Ying’s expression changed.

“Kill!” The four White Fog Ape came charging simultaneously. Their speed was terrifying, as in the blink of an eye, they had all gotten close to Xue Ying.

As the saying goes, two fists would have a hard time defending against four arms.

But in this case, it was an attack from four different directions. It was truly very difficult to defend against it.

The Gravity Domain maintained its repulsion as Xue Ying's spear techniques changed. The Stellar Fire Cloud Spear started stabbing with a speed that left only shadows behind. Sweeping horizontally, hacking, blocking, drawing back, twisting, whipping, sealing... in a moment, his entire line of sight was filled with rolling red clouds vaguely akin to a rotating star. This star's defence was so tight that it wouldn't allow even a single droplet of water to pass!

The True Meaning of Star was very encompassing, as it contained fire, water, and wind. Although it clacked the terrifying penetrative force of the Extreme Piercing, it had boundless potential in accepting Myriad Existences! His spear techniques were similarly accepting of Myriad Existences, like flowing clouds and moving water following their paths without pause.

One spear... had successfully defended against the surrounding attacks of four White Fog Apes!

"What?"

"How can this human Transcendent's defense be so powerful!"

The White Fog Apes were stunned.

Peng!

While Xue Ying defended used his spear to defend, he was also accumulating strength for a sweeping attack which pushed three of the apes backwards.

"You split yourself into four, making it harder to defend, but your power and speed have drastically dropped! You are still not my match!" After sweeping the three White Fog Apes away, Xue Ying immediately continued with a fierce stab combined with Extreme Piercing towards the final White Fog Apes' body. This final ape was astonished as he completely dissipated with its eyes wide open, before condensing once again in the distance.

In the end, they were just condensed white fog, and could aggregate together once again. This implied that they could never die, or, at the very least, no Demigod had any method of killing them yet.

“I don’t believe that a Saint can win against me! There has never been a Saint who won against me before!” hollered the White Fog Ape.

Hu.

The four White Fog Apes went on attacking Xue Ying maniacally.

Sometimes, they would attack him together!

Sometimes, the four would merge as one, before condensing into the strongest White Fog Ape with the highest attack power!

At times, he had even split into two figures. These two White Fog Apes had a lower individual combat power, though they could attack Xue Ying from different directions.

Ultimately, it was useless. No matter the method this White Fog Ape used, Xue Ying could still defend against it. As they continued fighting, Xue Ying also gained a deeper knowledge of his spear techniques. He could also gain experience with his True Meanings of Extreme Piercing and Star as well. In battle, he could experience the true test of his spear techniques and allow him to gain a deeper understanding.

“Just enter.” The White Fog Ape retreated at a distance. It stood within the palace hall in a lonely manner. Its voice was gloomy and low as it said, “I can’t defeat you, and neither can I obstruct you. I truly would not have thought that I would be defeated by a Saint! In the 8 million years since I emerged, I have never lost to a Saint! Not even once!”

From the moment he was refined until today.

This was the first time he felt helpless against a Saint. Although Xue Ying did not destroy it, that was just because its body was condensed out of fog. Not even Demigods or Deities like the Dragon Mountain Emperor could truly destroy him. Thus, when it was helpless against its enemy... it represented that he had been defeated.

“But brat, in the end, I am just a gatekeeper defending the palace gate.” The White Fog Ape’s eyes filled with rumbling lightning stared at Xue Ying. “Everyone inside the Black Wind Deity Palace is stronger than me. The deeper you go, the more powerful they become! Your combat power is still too weak

so I suggest you give up. As you are already so formidable as a Saint, I can bet that your potential is terrifying. Wait until you become a Demigod. By then, you can truly have hope of entering the deepest region of this Black Wind Deity Palace!"

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Chapter 6 – Disappeared?

“Still, I would like to give it a try!” Xue Ying passed through the side door of the palace hall.

The White Fog Ape looked towards Xue Ying’s back before shaking its head. “He truly overestimates himself. I have great hopes for this Saint, so I wish he won’t break inside.”

“He won?”

The big black dragon entrenched just outside the cavern palace opened his golden eyes wide. He was truly shocked. Given his size, his head could extend all the way to the doorstep of the palace. He looked towards the White Fog Ape inside. “Hey, Wu Lei, aren’t you the one always boasting to me about your strength? The one who kept saying how stupid I am? Did something happen today so that you couldn’t even win against a Saint?”

“Hmph, you are just an idiotic dragon.” The White Fog Ape felt embarrassed. “Weren’t you defeated as well?”

“Defeated as well? I lost because of his True Meaning of Gravity. My body is too big, so it ended up being wholly controlled by him! Otherwise, I could’ve sent him flying with a single tail whip!” Despite his tone, the enormous dragon used his head to take a peek inside the palace. He was somewhat worried. “Ai, this brat charged further in. Hopefully, he can survive.”

As for the White Fog Ape, he exhaled, causing him to dissipate back into the white which pervaded the entire hall. For countless tens of thousands of years, this was how he had been living.

The corridor was about a hundred meters high and sixty meters wide. The

walls sparkled like jade and were as smooth as mirrors.

It spanned more than a thousand meters in length.

Xue Ying walked alone along this corridor, his Stellar Fire Cloud Spear at his side. He was using his Gravity Domain to keep a constant check on his surroundings while also using it to maintain a tyrannical repulsive force.

After walking for more than a thousand meters, he finally reached an azure-colored set of stairs that extended downwards.

Deng deng deng. As he descended the stairs, he reached a depth of close to 200 meters underground before reaching the next level.

“Mn?” Xue Ying’s expression changed.

Hong—

The powerful gravitational force of repulsion which Xue Ying was constantly maintaining immediately pushed out an organism that had hiding behind the edge of the wall in front of him! This wall had seemed perfectly ordinary and would not have caused anyone to consider an organism was hiding within. However, the moment Xue Ying went past the array down to this level, the organism in hiding was naturally repulsed by the gravitational force which caused it to be revealed!

Chi chi chi~ This organism, which had previously been hiding, left the wall before turning into a gray-robed male with a pair of black rods on his back.

This organism grimaced in pain as he touched his face. He was somehow kneading himself into the shape of an ordinary human.

“I’ve actually been discovered. For you to triumph over that foolish dragon and Lei Wu as a Saint, you must have some ability.” The gray-robed male’s voice resounded with a disharmony akin to gold scraping against rock. “However... you’re just a Saint, which means you will not be able to win against me!”

Hong!

The gray-robed male immediately approached Xue Ying. He then grabbed his rods, which were about 1.3 meters in length, with his hands and waved one of them at him.

Hu~ As it was brandished out, the rod was accompanied by a feeling of being able to tear the world. Xue Ying felt like a terrifying might was crashing over him. Before the fight even truly began, Xue Ying had to depend on his Gravity Domain to get a clear understanding of the surrounding space. Naturally, he could deduce that this rod being brandished had a strength that could completely outclass his, and on top of that, a speed that was also so shocking that he could not retreat in time!

The only option was to defend.

He did not dare meet its force directly. Instead, he would try to divert it away.

Chi!"As the rod came crashing down, the spear moved like a swimming dragon towards it. The moment the spear touched the rod, it became truly slippery. At this point, Xue Ying had a change of expression as he felt his hands becoming numb, his body staggering backwards.

Hong long! The gray-robed male acted on instinct by waving the rod in his other hand.

Truly too fast.

Attack after attack was being unleashed, as if they were the blades of a turbine.

It was too sudden. Xue Ying could barely defend himself by placing his spear horizontally in front of him.

A loud *hong!* sound accompanied the clash. The body of the Stellar Fire Cloud Spear was twisted by the force, knocking back into Xue Ying's chest. Although the force of the impact had been reduced by the True Meaning of Star, Xue Ying was still sent flying backwards. It was truly fortunate that the bulk of force had been transmitted through the body of the spear before reaching his figure.

Hong! The hands of the gray-robed male seemed like a turbine's blades as a third rod attack lashed out.

While flying backwards, Xue Ying tried his utmost to parry the attack with his numb hands, but he was clearly a step too slow.

—*Thump*—

It actually whipped Xue Ying's abdomen directly.

Xiu!

He flew backwards akin to a streamer before knocking into a layer of azure stairs behind him with a *hong*.

Pa pa pa! Xue Ying could feel six of his bones fracturing from the impact.

Pu! A mouthful of fresh blood spurt out from his mouth, and his face turned pale.

Peak stage Demigod. Xue Ying looked at gray-robed male with a pale expression. In terms of strength, the Black Dragon had also reached the realm of a peak stage Demigod. But could the two really be compared? The enormous dragon had similarly immense force, and its figure was so large it was like comparing an adult to an ant. Naturally, its strength would be huge as well. By a similar logic, the Black Dragon's large figure also made it great at dishing out its absurd strength.

But this gray-robed male was different. He was as tall as a human, yet his strength was that of a peak stage Demigod! Furthermore, his rod techniques were imbued with Profound Mysteries of Space.

As for Xue Ying?

He had grasped hold of three different True Meanings, but he only had the strength of an early stage Demigod! He was completely suppressed when facing directly against this man!

Hong. As Xue Ying fell onto the stairs, the gray-robed male came towards him as fast as an illusion.

Xue Ying had no time retaliate in any way.

“Enough!”

He shouted.

Hong.

The green-gray wristband on Xue Ying's arm immediately formed a green-armored protector. This protector slapped out angrily slapped out with its palm,

causing space to distort like rippling water. The gray-robed male's expression changed as he brandished the rod in his right hand, smoothly clashing against the green-armored protector's terrifying palm attack.

As the two clashed, the green-armored protector did not move from its spot. Instead, it had been the gray-robed male that was jolted backwards from the attack before stumbling on the ground.

"A Xia Clan Deity warrior?" The gray-robed male frowned.

"You're a Deity warrior as well," the green-armored protector coldly commented, "albeit a weaker one!"

"I'm merely the youngest of the five shadows. Winning against me is nothing much. If you have the ability, then defeat my big brother!" The gray-robed male snorted.

The Deity warriors sent back by the ancestors of the Xia Clan were usually limited to the level of Demigods. It was the restrictions of the world... which set the limit of strength that Deity could be sent at. Stronger ones would break the rules described by the Laws of the World.

The green-armored protector's combat power could match the might of the Demonic Avatar of the thin and small Demon General covered in purple scales! And that Demon General's might could compare to that of Mountain Lord He, who had a Deity weapon! Even if it was a Demonic Avatar, it still contained the combat power of its true body.

This green-armored protector could absolutely be listed in the top ten Demigod rankings.

And the advantage they had over any ordinary Demigod... was that they could not die! While someone with an undying body could still die, these warriors had no way of being killed! There was at least no Demigod who could do it! Not even Deities at the level of the Dragon Mountain Emperor had any way of doing it. To destroy Deity Warriors, one had to be so much stronger than the Dragon Mountain Emperor.

"Brat, you are still not my match. This Deity warrior of the Xia Clan is indeed very powerful, and his combat power puts him among the top ten Demigods in

the world. He can defeat me! But if you wish to get past me, you must depend on your own combat power! Not doing so means disobeying the rules set by my master, and those who disobey the rules... hmph, hmph, won't survive with just a Deity warrior." The gray-robed male stood there with his two black rods returned to his back. "Go back and continue cultivating. Wait until your Transcendent Qi reaches the peak stage before returning!"

"Xue Ying, let's go." The green-armored protector turned towards him. "The owner of Black-Wind Deity Palace is, after all, an existence that could suppress a generation. The Deity Palace which he left behind isn't something that could be broken through so easily."

"I understand." Xue Ying stood up. He held onto his wounds; his bones and viscera were currently recovering rapidly.

"I truly didn't expect that I would merely be able to defeat the gatekeepers of this Deity Palace before being suppressed at this corridor level." Xue Ying shook his head. The green-armored protector immediately turned into a stream of Qi which wrapped around his extended arm. "I originally wanted to depend on my combat power to break through it head-on, but it seems that I can only reach this spot. The gap is still too big."

"As long as you know that the gap is huge," the gray-robed male frankly said. "If you hadn't brought that Deity warrior with you, I would have certainly given you a lesson to remember your whole life!"

"The gap is big, and I can't win in a head-on fight." Xue Ying laughed. "But can you even touch me now?"

Hua.

Xue Ying disappeared into empty air.

"Where? Where is he?" The gray-robed male was shocked as he looked around his surroundings. "How could he disappear without a trace? The space was sealed shut through the heavy arrays laid behind by the master of this Deity Palace, so how could he disappear? He—where did he go?"

Right now, he could not find Xue Ying at all!

In another world...

In the other face of reality...

“Ai, I didn’t think I’d be forced to use this move.” A black robed teenager walked inside a vast world. This world looked like a reflection of reality and was identical to it. This was none other than the Mirage. Only those who studied the mirage could understand and enter this mysterious world.

The True Meaning of Mirage might have been weaker than a grade three True Meaning in terms of offensive power, but an expert inside the Mirage could not be attacked by the experts in reality. Even discovering them would be hard.

As soon as he reached the gates of the Black Wind Deity Palace, Xue Ying had discovered something.

Teleportation? Space was sealed shut and he could not teleport!

Extreme Piercing? The Black-Wind Deity Palace had an extremely powerful array that created an obstruction for Extreme Piercing. As such, he had no success with it either.

But Mirage?

The arrays of the Black Wind Deity Palace could not affect the Mirage at all. Experts who controlled the Mirage were renowned for being the most terrifying assassins. These were not words without weight. Obstructing the Extreme Piercing was easy, but in order to block the Mirage... one would need to either have a higher comprehension of the True Meaning of Mirage or to completely isolate the entire world! That meant they needed to isolate the real world and separate it from the Mirage!

But these two different methods were extremely hard to achieve. In the history of the Xia Clan, there had only been one person other than Xue Ying to have grasped hold of a grade two True Meaning. As for the True Meaning of Mirage, it was ultimately rare even amongst those with grade two True Meanings.

How hard would it be to meet someone who could control the Mirage? How hard?

As for isolating the real world from the Mirage, that could only be done by Deities.

Hu. Xue Ying walked in the Mirage.

“Where is he? How is it possible for him to disappear? What kind of Law of Profound Mysteries is this for him to evade master’s arrays?” The gray-robed male did not dare believe it.*Pa*.

A hand appeared from nothingness and gave a slap on his head.

“You can slowly wait here for me.” Xue Ying’s playful voice resounded.

“Mn?”

The gray-robed male brandished his palm above him, but it remained just empty space. Xue Ying’s palm had long returned to the Mirage.

“He, what method is he using?” The gray-robed male looked all around him.

Xue Ying was strolling in the Mirage as he headed on to a deeper region of the Black Wind Deity Palace. The Black Wind Deity Palace might have been overlaid with lots of arrays in the real world, yet in the Mirage, it was completely unobstructed. Everything was under Xue Ying’s observation. Through this, he discovered the obstructions and dangers within the Black-Wind Deity Palace. There were even organisms more powerful than the gray-robed male. Indeed, the Black-Wind Deity Palace’s terrifying might was not without any basis.

But it would mean nothing even if they were more terrifying!

That was because none of them could discover Xue Ying in his Mirage, and neither could they attack him.

Chapter 7 – Gold man and Black Rat

In one of the Black Wind Deity Palace halls.

A person colored entirely gold, wrapped up in gray robes, was currently sitting atop the master throne. His eyes were glowing with a golden light. Even while sitting, an unseen pressure being emitted from him could be felt, as if there was a high and steep mountain in his place instead.

“Big brother.”

Four figures were standing beside him.

They were the ones whom Xue Ying had exchanged moves with previously—the gray-robed male, a handsome teenager colored in red, a seductive woman of unmatched beauty, and a cold, apathetic boy.

“We have searched the entire perimeter of the Black Wind Deity Palace, but we could not find the one called Dong Bo Xue Ying!” said the handsome teenager colored in red.

“Fifth brother.” The seductive woman laughed lightly. It felt as if there were more color in existence in their surroundings. A single smile of hers would have been enough to move the hearts of Transcendents, however, the other four people in the room were all Deity warriors, so they were not affected. “Are you sure you aren’t mistaken? How high are the accomplishments of our masters in terms of arrays? Those powerful arrays he has set down, I’d believe if you said a powerful Transcendent could spend some time to break them! But if you say that he disappeared from mid-air, you must be joking!”

“He truly disappeared from mid-air without leaving any traces!” The gray-robed male was resentful.

"Second brother, have you not discovered anything either?" The gold man looked towards the cold, apathetic boy.

The boy lightly nodded. "I haven't discovered anything! I went to the place guarded by fifth brother and thoroughly searched it, but I didn't find anything!"

"Oh..."

The gold man was deep in thought.

Meanwhile.

In the Mirage, Xue Ying was looking at the five of them with interest. He had long since determined from their words that they should be the supposed 'Five Shadows'. From the vague feeling of threat, he could sense that they were increasingly strong, especially the gold man! He emitted an unseen feeling of suppression that could even be felt by his green-armored protector.

Of course, that was only natural. The green-armored protector of the green-gray wristband was good at defending! As for the gold man, Xue Ying could naturally deduce that he was a Deity warrior that specialized in attacking!

The number of Deity warriors of my Xia Clan can be counted on one's fingers, thought Xue Ying. Even so, they are similar in that their powers are all limited by the Laws of the World.

As for the Deity warriors inside this Black Wind Deity Palace... that weak gray-robed male from before could be easily sent flying by the green-armored protector. However, the other four Deity warriors have increasing strengths. Regardless of the fact that they're somewhat weaker, there are still five Deity warriors here. Xue Ying was truly shocked. Deity warriors had to be refined by Deities, yet five of them could still be found here?

The gatekeeper of the cavern palace—the White Fog Ape—was most likely a Deity warrior as well, as Xue Ying had suspected. It was just that it was much weaker than the gray-robed man.

On top of that, another existence suspected to be a Deity warrior should be in the deepest part of the Black Wind Deity Palace.

Adding them up... there was a total of seven Deity warriors!

No wonder Palace Head Chen didn't mention this, thought Xue Ying. There should be some deep secrets within.

Hua!

The gold man seated on the throne stood up before coldly saying, "Return to your places. I'll find that water rat!"

"The water rat is the one master trusted the most. Every time it comes before us, it acts ostentatiously, destroying my mood," complained the red-colored handsome teenager.

"Hmph, hmpf, hmpf, if we compare their combat powers, our big brother will still triumph over it! Logically, the Black Wind Deity Palace should be under our control, yet before he died, master actually asked that water rat to take control of the palace!" The gray-robed male snorted.

"That's enough."

The gold man frowned before walking off.

.....

Inside the Mirage, Xue Ying continued following that gold man.

Very soon.

The gold man arrived at a courtyard within which there was a lake of pitch black water, several hundreds of meters large in radius. The ground beside this black lake was as smooth as a mirror. A black rat, about half a meter tall, was currently sitting cross-legged the way a human would normally do. The rat's beard was drooping downwards as he was cultivating with his eyes closed.

Dong! Dong! Dong!

As the gold man walked, vague signs of the earth quaking and mountain shaking could be seen. The smooth surface of the entire courtyard even started vibrating, and the black lake started rolling.

"Eldest brother Ying, you rarely take the time to come and see me. Unless, you wish to fight again?" The black rat opened his eyes to reveal a pair of dull and glossy eyeballs, making him seem rather quick-witted. "I can defeat you, and you can't stand me. Is there any meaning in continuing our fighting? Didn't

master trust me the most, passing everything to me and allowing me to take control over the palace?”

“I’m not here to fight,” the gold man coldly said. “We’re about to be freed. Since it seems that it won’t be long until we leave this Black Wind Deity Palace, there’s no need to fight any longer.”

“Do you mean that human, Dong Bo Xue Ying? Even with all your unique methods, you five shadows couldn’t find him?” The black rat was shocked. He managed all the arrays of the Black Wind Deity Palace, so when Xue Ying had disappeared without a trace, he was startled and took precautions against him.

“Nope. We can’t find him at all!” The gold man shook his head.

The black rat frowned in a relatively cute manner. Suddenly, he looked to the void at his side. “Dong Bo Xue Ying, you should be right here, am I right?”

“Mn?” The gold man’s expression slightly changed.

“Haha, your guess is right. I am indeed over here. However, you all can’t find me.” Xue Ying’s voice reverberated within this courtyard, causing the gold man and the black rat to be startled. He was truly here?

The black rat continued, “My master has also condensed a Deity Heart using a grade three True Meaning. Although he might have had some lucky encounters which allowed him to reach great levels in terms of understanding arrays, when faced with True Meanings of a higher grade, such as the legendary grade two True Meanings, or even the unfathomable grade one True Meanings, these arrays will not be of any use. You should be someone who grasped hold of some sort of strange grade two True Meaning, right?”

“Why can’t it be a grade one True Meaning?” teased Xue Ying.

“If you had truly grasped a grade one True Meaning, I’m afraid you’d have swept across everyone.” The black rat laughed. “You wouldn’t have been injured by the fifth shadow brother’s attacks.”

Hu.

In the peaceful courtyard, a black-robed teenager came walking out from the void. It was none other than Xue Ying.

The gold man and black rat looked curiously towards this black-robed teenager, carefully observing his appearance and figure.

“The two of you are...?” Xue Ying felt uneasy at their stares.

“For you to defeat the gatekeeper Lei Wu, and to have even survived under fifth brother’s attacks... you must have comprehended at least a grade two True Meaning,” said the black rat. “You also possess another strange and unpredictable grade two True Meaning. That is to say, you grasped hold of at least two grade two True Meanings! In the history of the Xia Clan, there is no other person more formidable than you are.”

“In other words, you must be the most heaven-shaking Transcendent in the entire history of the Xia Clan?” The black rat was amazed.

Xue Ying laughed. “I have already broken through the obstacles posed by the arrays and arrived into the deepest part of the Deity Palace. I would like to ask if this is considered as my success, and if I may obtain the treasures left behind by Ancestor Black Wind.”

The gold man and the black rat looked towards each other.

Was this considered a success?

“My master set the Black Dragon outside as the palace protector. That dragon is none other than a refiner organism my master refined all by himself,” said the black rat. “As for the gatekeeper, Lei Wu, he is a Deity warrior. The others—the ‘Five Shadows’—are increasingly strong, and they all have their own specialties, so breaking through them is indeed very difficult.

“Other than them, there are still the obstacles in the form of arrays! For instance, upon defeating the eldest brother, you must still forcibly break through an array. Usually, only those who have a combat power similar to master’s, in that they can match the might of Deity, could forcibly break through the arrays!

“Only after breaking through it could you reach my location!”

The black rat laughed, causing his beard to stick up. “You can’t even win against fifth shadow brother.”

“However—”

“I still say that you succeeded!” The black rat grinned. “Master only said that the person must depend on his own combat power to break through all of the obstacles. The Transcendent of the Xia Clan who can reach me will be given everything. You indeed depended on your own combat power in breaking through the obstacles.”

Xue Ying revealed an expression of joy.

He actually succeeded?

With his True Meaning of Mirage, those obstacles had no way of obstructing him. That was how he could arrive here. And now, he had succeeded? He had merely asked without harboring any great hope, since he could try again in the future when he became stronger!

“Dong Bo Xue Ying, if you, someone who has grasped hold of at least two different grade two True Meanings, don’t have the qualification to pass the trial, then who does?” said the gold man. “You have indeed depended on your own combat power to break through the obstacles!”

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Chapter 8 – Treasure Hoard

Actually, both the black rat and the gold man truly felt the wish to leave this place. They were bitter that they had to stay in the cavern palace for several hundreds of thousands of years due to the low combat power of the previous generations of Xia Clan Transcendents. There had even been cases of Demigods with grade three and four True Meanings with deity weapons trying to break through the palace! However, the only way for one to break through the palace was for them to have a combat power equivalent or higher to that of Ancestor Black Wind. Yet, hundreds of thousands of years after his death, nobody at all could reach that level of comprehension!

It was too difficult!

With his current ability, it would be impossible even for Xue Ying to tackle the palace head-on.

However, Ancestor Black Wind never said one must do it head-on! If one's True Meaning was mysterious enough for them to easily get through without having to overcome the obstacles, that too, could be considered combat power!

“To break through the obstacles, to use your own strength, and to be a Transcendent of the Xia Clan!” the black rat said. “All three of the criteria have been met, meaning that you have certainly passed through the trials!”

“Then where are the treasures left behind by Ancestor Black Wind?” Xue Ying looked around him.

“Err...”

The black rat and gold man looked towards each other.

“They’re not in the Black Wind Deity Palace,” the black rat honestly said.

“Not here?” Xue Ying’s eyes widened.

The gold man added, “It’s like this—back then, master prevented the experts who became Deities, as well as those from the Beast Clan from using their combat power to forcibly take the treasures away by not placing them here, in the Black Wind Deity Palace.”

“Right.” Xue Ying nodded before asking curiously, “Even so, Ancestor Black Wind didn’t leave his treasures to the Infernal Palace, instead building the Black Wind Deity Palace to leave behind his inheritance to the one who manages to get through it?”

Many Transcendents, even Demigods, had left behind their treasures before dying to their own sects. A minority would leave them behind to their clans, while the majority would pass them to the Infernal Palace.

The Infernal Palace was, after all, an organization belonging to the entire Xia Clan.

“Differing opinions!” replied the black rat. “That year, master considered leaving behind some of the treasures to the Infernal Palace. However, due to some differing opinions between the Palace Head and master, they got into a bit of an argument! As a result, master left none of the treasures behind to the Infernal Palace, instead keeping them all to himself!”

“Argument?” Xue Ying was puzzled. He could feel that Ancestor Black Wind still held the Xia Clan in his heart. If he didn’t, why would he have spent so much effort before dying to set up the palace? At that time, Ancestor Black Wind... was unarguably the number one expert in the entire Xia Clan, suppressing all the other clans for an entire era. Yet, he had actually argued with the Infernal Palace Head of that time due to some difference in opinion?

“Why did they argue? What differences did they have?” Xue Ying was curious.

“That is something I don’t really know. Master didn’t tell me about it,” replied the black rat.

Xue Ying muttered to himself.

An existence that could suppress everything for an entire era? Arguing with the Palace Head?

He actually possessed a total of seven Deity warriors? Although, the majority of them were slightly weak.

“Wait until you obtain master’s inheritance. By then, you should understand everything,” the black rat replied. “Master had also mentioned that everything he left behind is within the treasure hoard. Other than the many treasures, the command talisman for the warriors is inside it as well, so if you want us to heed your command, you will have to obtain it.”

“Where is the treasure hoard?” Xue Ying asked.

“Hmph mph.” The black rat was delighted at the question.

“Only the Water Rat knows the location.” The gold man laughed. “None of us shadow brothers know it. Therefore, even if a Deity comes and grabs the Water Rat by force, he can’t go against orders master gave him to tell them the secret!”

Xue Ying looked towards the black rat.

“Please leave,” the black rat said to the gold man.

“Even I am not privy to the secret!” The gold man shook his head. Nevertheless, he turned around and walked out of the courtyard, leaving behind only Xue Ying and that black rat.

Xue Ying was quite curious as to where Ancestor Black Wind hid his treasures.

“In the deepest underground level of this Black Wind Deity Palace,” the black rat began, “there is an extremely large hall. Inside, there’s actually a hidden gate to another world, leading you into a major Transcendent World! This world is very unique in that it grows within the fold of this world’s outer layer, ensuring that it entirely enclosed—the world membrane cannot be torn apart. None of the natives of this Transcendent World have ever torn through space to enter the mortal world.”

“Oh?” Xue Ying was startled.

No wonder.

No wonder this ninth major Transcendent World had been kept secret from everyone else. It was the completely sealed environment which resulted from its location in the void that led to the lack of connection with the void layer in between space. To tear apart this completely sealed world membrane was equivalent to completely tearing apart the entire outermost layer of the mortal world! That was too difficult.

Usually, tearing space meant merely tearing apart the membrane at the innermost layer, before being able to enter the void layer in between space.

Other than this void layer... there was still another external membrane that was the thickest.

This outermost external membrane surrounded the entire mortal world, including all sorts of minor and major Transcendent Worlds.

Because the major Transcendent Worlds were interconnected with the mortal world, there were 'World Doors' formed as a result. And the only exit from a space-sealed major Transcendent World... was precisely one of these World Doors!

"Master's treasures were precisely hidden in this major Transcendent World at a certain underground place," answered the black rat. "I'll pass you the map."

"Wasn't he afraid that someone would discover it and take it away?" Xue Ying was shocked.

"First of all, these treasures are very unique in that they can only be seen with one's naked eyes. There are no other methods of observation to discover them. With such a vast major Transcendent World and the seemingly boundless the underground space, how hard would it be for one to find the hoard with their naked eyes? Who could ever find it? Before you, there is nobody to have even known that there are treasures located within, so nobody would be foolish enough use their naked eyes to slowly search for them," the black rat said. "Secondly, even if they found the hoard, they couldn't open it! The key to open it is with me! Finally, the entrance, which is the World Door, can only be used by human Transcendents!"

"To sum it up, it's absolutely safe." The black rat was confident in this.

Extending his hand, an octagonal ink-black talisman appeared on his small and hairy claws. "This is the key. I'll give it to you."

Xue Ying took it.

"I'll draw the map for you." The black rat waved his claws, causing waves from the black lake to fly upwards before instantly forming into an enormous, clear map in the air.

"This is the detailed map of the major Transcendent World, and the treasure is located there!" The black rat pointed towards a point on the enormous map, causing that spot to glow with golden light.

Hu.

The enormous map dissipated and the waves returned back to the lake.

"I've given you the key and told you about the map," said the black rat. "You must be careful when proceeding on your own. This is, after all, a major Transcendent World. Hundreds of thousand of years have passed, so nobody can truly know what sorts of native Transcendents will be inside."

There were weak and strong native Transcendents.

For instance, the second ranked Demigod, the 'Infernal Emperor', was unrivalled within his Infernal World! There, Mountain Lord He as well as other Demigods with Deity weapons had been similarly defeated by him.

Thus, one could never look down upon the native Transcendents.

"Originally, I thought that after obtaining the key, it'd be quite easy for you to retrieve the treasures. However, your current combat power is still quite weak, so you must be careful." The black rat reminded him. He did not wish for Xue Ying to die. After all, who knew when someone powerful enough to free them of this place would appear once again?

"Don't worry." Xue Ying made his decision.

Major Transcendent World?

It might be dangerous.

By relying on his True Meaning of Mirage, however, he could still explore the

place. As long as he was careful in sending his own Qi Avatar, it'll be enough. A Qi Avatar's comprehension of the realms would be similar to that of the true body, so it could enter the Mirage as well.

"Oh, right. That underground Great Hall seemed to have been damaged, with signs of battle having occurred inside," Xue Ying added. It had been precisely due to those traces of battle which caused the walls of the underground Great Hall to be damaged that he could survive back then.

"You know about it?" The black rat was startled. "That's right. A truly terrifying big battle occurred at that location before!"

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Chapter 9 – A Way to Get Rid of Demons

“Master was the strongest Demigod mage in the past million years,” the black rat said. “As he was reaching the end of his lifespan, he did not wish to die just like that. He therefore decided to conduct several experiments in that major Transcendent World since the Black Wind Deity Palace is ultimately too small. A major Transcendent World is big enough for many types of experiments to be conducted inside. Finally, a terrifying existence appeared inside this world! This existence fought master in a huge battle that destroyed the heavens and sundered the earth. In the end, master couldn’t match it and had to retreat into the Black Wind Palace.”

Xue Ying was inwardly startled.

An existence able to suppress an era met someone whom he could not defeat and had to escape back into the Black Wind Deity Palace? What sort of terrifying plaything did Ancestor Black Wind create in his last experiment?

“This terrifying existence possessed a truly tyrannical combat power. The arrays placed on the World Door by master could not obstruct it, so it continued barging into the Black Wind Deity Palace and had a life and death battle...in the Underground Great Hall underneath the palace!

“Master did not dare let it free, as the moment it entered the mortal world, it would bring calamity to the Xia Clan. On top of that, this Black Wind Deity Palace is the place where he set up a large number of arrays, as well as the place where he could display his strongest combat power. If he left this location, he would never be able to suppress that terrifying existence. For the sake of the Xia Clan, he had to resolve this issue he had created no matter the cost.

“Finally, he disposed of that terrifying existence.

“Master was already nearing the end of his lifespan, and soon after the big battle, he died,” said the black rat.

Xue Ying lightly nodded.

He was gasping in admiration inwardly.

For the apex Transcendent mage who could suppress an era and wished to become a Deity to create such a terrifying life form, he had to solve this calamity which he caused all by himself! Thereafter, his life was ended as well.

Is it truly that hard to become a Deity? Xue Ying shook his head mentally.

Every single generation of the Xia Clan would see the emergence of a group of Demigods.

As for Deities, how many could there be?

“Is there anything else you need to tell me?” Xue Ying smiled. “If there’s not, I’ll take my leave first.”

“You don’t have to be so anxious to collect the treasures.” The black rat dropped his two claws in front of his chest. “It’s a major Transcendent World we’re talking about after all. Even if you want us to wait a thousand years for you, we’d still be willing.”

“Rest assured. I have my own plans. I’ll take my leave first. You don’t have to send me off.”

Xue Ying immediately turned around and disappeared from that place.

.....

In the valley of Black Wind Abyss.

Opening the cavern palace’s main entrance, a black-robed teenager came walking out.

“Formidable.” The white fog condensed into an ape which looked at Xue Ying in excitement and admiration.

“You, you succeeded?” The Black Dragon lying outside the palace extended its humongous head towards Xue Ying. The pair of big golden eyes was full of

excitement and joy. “Dong Bo Xue Ying, you have actually succeeded as a Saint. This, this, this is truly amazing. I, I, this old dragon truly, truly admires you. Quickly tell me, how did you defeat the Five Shadows? Especially the Shadow Big Brother!”

The head of the Five Shadows—in other words, the gold man.

He had the strongest combat ability in the entire cavern palace! The Black Dragon would be trampled upon entirely if he were to fight the gold man.

“That’s a secret.” Xue Ying grinned.

“Still want to keep it a secret?” The Black Dragon opened its eyes wide.

“Remember, don’t leak out the matter regarding my success,” Xue Ying said. “After all, strictly speaking, I’ve only partially succeeded. At the moment, I don’t have your talismans, so I can’t take you guys away.”

“Rest assured.” The Black Dragon immediately started nodding its head continuously. “We’ll certainly keep it a secret.”

These refiners organisms, as well as the Deity warriors of the Black Wind Deity Palace, were now on Xue Ying’s side. The moment Xue Ying obtained their warrior talismans, he would become their owner. How long had they desired to see that day come... After all, staying in the same place for such a long time was too boring.

Xiu!

With a flash, Xue Ying’s figure appeared at a distance. His current speed was extremely fast.

Jin Qiu was currently by herself on the Black Wind Cliff, waiting anxiously. However, she could feel that the safety of her Disciple Brother Xue Ying should be guaranteed. After all, he had a Deity warrior specialized in defense following him, and the Black Wind Deity Palace Head would not be murderous towards Xia Clan Transcendents.

Shua.

Xue Ying rushed out of the enormous Black Wind maelstrom as a streamer before reaching the space in mid-air in front of Jing Qiu.

One person standing on the cliff and another in mid-air were facing each other.

“You returned? How was it? Was it fine?” Jing Qiu revealed a cheerful expression. “Have you experienced how formidable the Black Wind Deity Palace is? Quickly tell me about its strength. Having flipped through the books, I saw that no Transcendent has ever succeeded in breaking through the palace.”

“It is indeed quite formidable.” Xue Ying held onto Jing Qiu’s hands. “However, from today onwards, your disciple brother—I—will be the first one to have succeeded..”

Jing Qiu was startled; her face had a stupefied expression.

“You are not joking with me?” Jing Qiu asked back. She dared not believe.

“I’ve really succeeded.” Xue Ying laughed when he saw Jing Qiu’s expression of disbelief. “Senior warrior, I did not lie, right?”

“He has indeed succeeded.” The green-gray wristband formed a streamer before condensing into a green-armored protector.

“Senior warrior, you must keep this a secret,” Xue Ying said. “As well as anything related to my combat power.”

“I understand.” The green-armored protector nodded. “The fewer people who know about your combat power, the better. Yu Jing Qiu, you should keep this a secret for Dong Bo Xue Ying too. Soon, he will become the strongest Demigod of my Xia Clan.”

Jing Qiu immediately nodded.

If one was to say that Palace Head Chen was absolutely loyal, then the loyalty of Deity warriors would certainly be unquestionable! When these warriors had been sent down, their Deity talismans were left behind in the Deity World. That was to say, there was no way for one to find any of these talismans...in the Xia Clan World. No matter the person, there was no way for them to refine and control them.

These Deity warriors would forever follow the orders of their masters—the ancestors of the Xia Clan in the Deity World.

Forever protect the Xia Clan!

The green-armored protector determined that Xue Ying's current value to the entire Xia Clan was raising tremendously! Of course it would use the entirety of its strength to help him.

Thereafter, it once again turned into a green-grayed wristband located on Xue Ying's arm.

"Let's return." Xue Ying held onto Jing Qiu's hand as the two became streamers, flying towards the location of Snowrock Castle.

Just a day later.

Shua.

A red-robed Xue Ying was standing in a secret underground room underneath Snowrock Castle, his skin surrounded by a vague fiery-red streamer. This was precisely his Qi Avatar. Every second it was in existence meant Qi being consumed, even if it was not in battle. Usually, Qi Avatars could maintain their existence for close to a year's time. Once that period ended, it would have to return to its true body; otherwise, the strand of soul inside the Qi Avatar would be lost, and the owner would have their fundamental soul strength damaged.

The red-robed Xue Ying similarly had a green-gray wristband on him. "I'll have to trouble you this time, senior."

"Xue Ying, your True Meaning is mysterious enough. Those Demigods in the major Transcendent World will never be able to hurt you. But of course, I'll do my best in protecting you." The green-gray wristband emitted an undulation.

"Let's go."

The red-robed Xue Ying's figure distorted before disappearing.

Inside another world—the Mirage...

The red-robed Xue Ying appeared there, flying at top speed towards the Black Wind Abyss. Whether it was the walls of the room, the mountains, or the river, none of them could block his way.

Considering the small distance and his truly fast speed, he was able to reach the Underground Great Hall in just one or two seconds even when flying without particulating his body.

.....

Underground Great Hall.

The great hall was over 300 meters tall and close to one kilometer in length. It remained shocking to Xue Ying even when he saw it today. To Ancestor Black Wind, however, it was too small. He had spent the final stretch of his life experimenting in the major Transcendent World. That big of a world had become his experiment ground.

“The great hall remains damaged.” Xue Ying revealed a grin. Pillars upon pillars of this great hall were broken down. Some had fallen, with most broken into pieces. The distant wall of the hall had a savage crack on it.

The materials used to build this great hall were unique and had been specially refined too.

Even with all of Xue Ying’s current strength, he could not damage the wall at all. Back then, Ancestor Black Wind’s big battle had turned this entire place into a mess. He had even borrowed the strength of his numerous arrays inside his own palace and risked his life before successfully eradicating that terrifying existence.

The damage remains as it was when I lived here for six years. It’s just that the ape and bird aren’t here any longer. Xue Ying was truly familiar with this place. The ape and the bird had also become two of Xue Ying’s hidden cards for eliminating his enemies.

“World Door.”

Xue Ying nostalgically walked towards one of the walls. This hall wall was sparkling and translucent-looking.

With a smack, a strand of Transcendent Qi entered this sparkling translucent wall of the great hall, causing it to immediately transmogrify into a hundred meters high door. This door transmitted a wave into Xue Ying’s mind, “I am Black Wind! On the other side of this door is a part of a major Transcendent

World. One must not enter before attaining a combat power of a Saint."

That undulation had even transmitted a map and details of the place.

A Demigod? Xue Ying grinned. On this journey into the major Transcendent World, the greatest danger would be a native Demigod. But who could truly know whether there was a Demigod in that world? Or, perhaps a terrifying Demigod would emerge from within? Everything was unknown!

Within the major Transcendent World, I'll travel inside the Mirage while investigating various places and see if the Demigods can find me, thought Xue Ying. If they can't discover me, then the Demon Generals won't be able to discover me either.

Travelling inside the mirage while investigating...

The Demon Generals had hidden in various places within the mortal world, hiding inside their battleships. These battleships might be able to prevent World Energy from sensing them, but when using the Mirage to investigate...even Deities would find it hard to obstruct it.

Xue Ying was worried that the Demon Generals might be able to discover him when he investigated them within the Mirage.

If they can't discover me, I'll immediately find the locations they are hiding in and then wipe them out! thought Xue Ying. I'll have to experiment with it first. The native Demigods should have lower levels of comprehension of the Realms when compared to the Demon Generals. If even they discover me, I'm afraid my True Meaning of Mirage will have to reach a deeper level before preventing them from sensing me.

Hu.

With a step, Xue Ying flew past the more than a hundred meters high World Door placed on the hall wall and entered the major Transcendent World.

Chapter 10 – Investigating the Major Transcendent World

Hu!

In this major Transcendent World was a world similar to the Mirage. Within, the red-robed Xue Ying was flying at high speeds along the surface of a wasteland. *Hu hu hu*. The wasteland's weeds seemed to brush his body as he traveled. Just when it seemed like he would crash into the undulating hills, he passed through them as if they were mere illusions.

The Mirage was a reflection of the reality. With Xue Ying's current combat power, he could control the Mirage within a radius of 500 kilometers!

Above and below; in all directions around him.

Anything located inside a spherical area of 500 kilometers in radius was within his full range of observation.

There are quite a lot of Transcendent materials. Naturally, he had discovered a large amount of Transcendent materials as he observed his surroundings within his sphere of influence. These would never appear within a stable world like the mortal world.

He continued to fly. Occasionally, he would discover some Transcendent materials with greater value. Only then would Xue Ying extend his hand into reality and grab them.

.....

The Transcendent materials he had collected while flying and observing had

already reached a value of over 30,000 kilograms of Origin Stones! Indeed, a major Transcendent world that had yet to be explored was akin to a big treasure trove. However, there weren't many major Transcendent worlds around, and the native Demigods were truly not one to be angered on a whim. That was why many treasures had been left untouched. After all, these Demigods had a terrifying talent for combat, akin to that of primordial beings.

"Mn?" Xue Ying's expression changed as he flew near the surface.

Hong ka!

In the distance, thunder struck down like a serpent, immediately followed by a resounding boom. This electric serpent swam around, causing the surrounding 500 kilometers in radius to become a pool of thunder.

A towering giant, tens of meters in height, currently laid within this pool of thunder, sound asleep. Thunder poured out of his mouth and nose.

How formidable. Xue Ying felt like he was being suppressed by a threat from the apex. Even after moving a distance away from it, he could still feel that the towering giant's combat power surpassed his completely. The gap was very clear as well. *Its combat power should be among the top 10 in the Demigod rankings.*

Human Transcendents were powerful in terms of their True Meanings and Deity weapons. Thus, on the surface, one would not really feel an exaggerated, threatening power coming from them.

But native Transcendents were different!

Other than their ability to grasp True Meanings and being able to use Deity weapons, the most important difference of native Transcendents was their tremendous innate talent! For example, the first ancestors of the Xia Clan were primordial beings of the primordial era. Back then, neither Qi nor magic spells existed. These beings depended entirely on their physical strength and their bloodlines! And, of course, on the Profound Mysteries of True Meanings as well.

Even so, primordial beings were all extremely strong, with the ones at the very peak reaching the level of Deities!

The reason why transcends like the Demon Generals could match the

might of Xia Clan Demigods wielding Deity weapons was partly due to their tyrannical physiques and bloodlines!

According to Ancestor Black Wind's map annotation, this part of the major Transcendent World is isolated from the other worlds. Because of that, the natives here have yet to cultivate Qi and magical techniques. Xue Ying looked at the horrifying native Transcendent snoring inside the large pool of lightning. He is clearly sleeping and not using any True Meaning. Is this his innate talent? He can actually attract thunder just by sleeping?

The aura emitted by his physique is truly vigorous and matchless. I think his physique must have reached the peak of the Demigod Realm.

With such great thunder talent, his speed must certainly be fast. This also means that his offensive strength would be fierce as well.

Very quickly, Xue Ying made an analysis.

One should know that demons were split into lower, middle, and upper ranks according to the differences in their innate talents.

Similarly, native Transcendents were ranked by their innate talents! Those in the upper ranks... were not any worse than the peak primordial beings.

Although his innate talent was infinitesimally close to the upper rank, it is still middle rank, guessed Xue Ying. His combat power is certainly ranked among the top 10 Demigod rankings. I'm unsure as to whether he has refined this part of the major Transcendent world or not.

Within their own major Transcendent world, native Transcendents could operate and control a greater portion of the world's might, causing their combat power to sharply increase.

In addition, they could even condense a World Heart if their comprehension of the realms were high enough. This would give them complete control over the entire major Transcendent World. At that point, they were able call forth the boundless might of the world... making them truly frightening.

That was the case with the second ranked Demigod, the Infernal Emperor. He had condensed a Deity Heart, and he had even refined and taken control over a major Transcendent world's World Heart. With that, he no longer had any

enemies while inside that world!

Apart from the Infernal Emperor, I estimate that this Thunder Demigod should not be so heaven-shaking, contemplated Xue Ying.

Hu.

Xue Ying continued to fly within the Mirage, shortening the distance between him and the Thunder Demigod.

He's still sleeping. It seems that he hasn't discovered me yet. Xue Ying let out a breath in relief.

The Deity World had long since sent down news of the nine different grades of True Meanings, and indeed, the descriptions written within were not fake!

Walking in the Mirage, he could observe the external world.

Because the True Meaning of Mirage's Reflection was a natural law, Xue Ying could discover some truly powerful existences inside the real world without them realizing it! Even Deities could have the Mirage 'reflected' upon them without truly being able to sense it.

However—

Although the reflection of the Mirage might not be discovered, a living being flying across the Mirage could still be sensed easily by others!

In the same way, Transcendents borrowed World Energy to investigate their surroundings without being discovered, but the very moment another Transcendent flew past them, they would be revealed.

By the same logic.

Xue Ying had merely flown by within the Mirage!

The Mirage and the real world were like the two sides of a coin.

If an expert in the real world had great attainment in his comprehension of the realms, he could sense a 'shadow' flying past him. One should know that when they reached that level... their perception of the Laws of the World would have truly become sensitive. At the moment, Xue Ying could observe a mere 500 kilometers around him.

500 kilometers? For those Demigods at the apex, that was their Absolute Perception Zone.

Similarly, with Xue Ying's True Meaning of Star at the first stage, the area in a radius of 50 kilometers around him was his Absolute Perception Zone.

I am 150 kilometers away from him and he has yet to sense me. Xue Ying continued to move closer. 100 kilometers, 50 kilometers, 25 kilometers...

He's still asleep. Xue Ying mentally shook his head. *This Thunder Demigod should be quite weak in terms of comprehension of the Laws of Profound Mysteries.*

Sou.

Xue Ying continued his investigations in other areas.

It was good news that the Thunder Demigod could not discover him. Clearly, the required understanding of the realms to be able to perceive someone flying within the Mirage was extremely high! This Thunder Demigod was, after all, living inside this major Transcendent World that was isolated from the external world. Without any enemies, he lived without a care, causing his comprehension of the realms to be lacking. His strong points included his physique and bloodline talents.

At least this shows that weaker Demigods will not be able to discover me within the Mirage, Xue Ying thought.

Previously, organisms such as the gold man or the Black Rat from within the Black Wind Deity Palace could not discover him. However, Deity warriors had always lacked in terms of their understanding of the realms. This Thunder Demigod was, after all, a true life form so he would have a deeper understanding of the realms compared to Deity warriors. Yet even so, he had not discovered Xue Ying.

Let's hope that the Demon Generals can't discover me either. Xue Ying was looking forward to it.

As long as they could not discover him, he would be able to wipe them out.

Without the five Demon Generals, those weaker demons left behind wouldn't

pose any threat. Whenever these Demon Generals moved, calamity would follow. More than a billion people dying being was considered a normal occurrence.

.....

As he continued flying...

Xue Ying was startled to find another native Demigod. He was six meters tall and had long, dark blue hair and skin. However, from his aura, Xue Ying could determine that he was far weaker than the Thunder Demigod. He should merely be at the initial stage of the Demigod Realm.. With his three different grade two True Meanings, Xue Ying might be able to defeat him.

This time around, Xue Ying was 10 meters away from the Demigod being without it being aware of him at all.

Mn?

Since Xue Ying was trying to test out whether anyone could discover him walking within the Mirage, the location of the Treasure Trove was his final destination.

When he had flown half his journey, Xue Ying finally revealed an expression of excitement.

Woah! An Origin Stone mine!

Xue Ying was incredibly excited.

At a depth of over 150 kilometers underground, there was a thin, long vein. Within it were abundant amounts of Origin Stones covered in junk. As long as one mined apart the rocks and junk, they could uncover these Origin Stones. Fundamentally, Origin Stones were dull gray in color, and quite inconspicuous. It had a similar appearance to normal pebbles with a smooth and round exterior.

These stones contained primitive World Energy within, and were the origin of this major Transcendent World.

That's right. Mining these origins stones was the same as mining the origins of this major Transcendent World. If one mined too much of them, the world

would start crumbling apart... before getting destroyed. After its destruction, however, the major Transcendent World would grow again, absorbing the external energy to recover itself before finally catalysing the appearance of a new major Transcendent World.

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Chapter 11 – Eradicate!

“Senior warrior, I’ll have to trouble you to help me dig out these Origin Stones,” Xue Ying transmitted this message into the green-gray wristband via spirit energy. “I have already checked the area; there are a total of 1.45 million kilograms of Origin Stones within this mine. Digging out 0.9 million kilograms and leaving behind the remaining 0.55 million kilogram should be fine! Remember not to dig out too much or this major Transcendent World might crumble apart. It would take 30,000 years for another one to form in its place, during which my Xia clan would not be able to dig out any more stones!”

“Rest assured, I understand.” the green-gray wristband transmitted back this through a wave.

“I’m leaving it to you.”

With a wave of his hand, the green-gray wristband on Xue Ying’s arm was thrown out of the Mirage and into reality.

At the same time, the green-gray wristband turned into a huge stream of green-gray particles. *Hu, hu, hu~* The particles permeated into the Origin Stone mine, easily destroying the junk and extracting the Origin Stones within.

“I’ll have to be careful when extracting the Origin Stones. I need approximately half an hour.” The green-gray streamer emitted a deep voice. “Oh, right. Xue Ying, do you plan on telling the Xia Clan about this major Transcendent World?”

“I’ll let Palace Head Chen know in the near future,” replied Xue Ying. “By the time I have a method to find those Demon Generals, I’ll certainly inform him!

After all, I will be needing his assistance in order to kill the generals."

He would first find the Demon Generals, then surround and kill them!

Before surrounding them, however, he would have to inform Palace Head Chen so he could assign a group of Demigods.

Thus...

Palace Head Chen was the most important person in this matter. Xue Ying did not feel that there was a need to hide anything from him. As for this major Transcendent World? Although, it might be considered a great treasure trove by the average Sky Realm Transcendents or Saints, but to Xue Ying, well... it might have been a treasure trove as well, but after digging out the Origin Stones, it had lost its value.

One had to leave behind more than 500,000 kilograms of Origin Stones as that was the source to the major Transcendent World.

If one dug them out to the point where there were less than 500,000 kilograms of Origin Stones, the major Transcendent World would lose its stability, crumble apart, and explode! A new major Transcendent World would only grow and emerge... 30,000 years later. The Xia Clan would not be able to dig out any stones within this period of time.

On the other hand, if 500,000 kilograms of Origin Stones were left behind, the major Transcendent World would only need 3000 years to recover!

As such—

One always had to leave behind a small part of the stones instead of digging them all out. Then, the next generation of Demigods could come and dig more out! Of course, to do that, they first had to pass through the obstacles of the world, in the form of the native Demigods.

Back then, Elder Lei Zhen had most likely wanted to come and dig out the stones after becoming a Demigod. Xue Ying shook his head inwardly. Ancestor Black Wind hadn't really cared about this matter, but he had hidden his treasures inside this major Transcendent World and hadn't wanted them to be found, so he had kept this world to him.

In a while, he would be taking the treasures left behind by Ancestor Black Wind.

Then it did not matter much if this major Transcendent World was revealed!

A single major Transcendent World has about 1.5 million kilograms of Origin Stones! Adding on the large amount of minor Transcendent Worlds... I estimate that there should not be more than 25 million kilograms of Origin Stones in total! Even reaching an amount of 20 million kilograms would be a fortunate matter!

That's the total amount.

Several of the major Transcendent worlds such as the Infernal Emperor's Demonic Fire World and the Beast Clan's Oceanic Forest World could not be occupied by the Xia Clan. Other worlds have native Demigods defending them, and the Beast Clan is also trying to snatch them!

Xue Ying shook his head.

In 3000 years, the Xia clan could dig out 10 million kilograms of Origin Stones at the very most. Even that amount would warrant thanking the heavens.

Sky Realm Transcendents, Saints, and Demigods all wished for those stones to be theirs! For example, for Mountain Lord He and Si Kong Yang who had both condensed Deity Hearts, the amount of Origin Stones they needed to become Demigods would be even greater! Thus, in the entire Xia Clan... the matter of Origin Stones was truly problematic! Previously, Palace Head Chen had been very afraid that Xue Ying might want to exchange for one million kilograms of Origin Stones in one go. One had to know that currently, the Xia Clan had a grand total of just 1.5 million kilograms of Origin Stones at their disposal. It truly was a limited resource!

How the heart of Palace Head Chen had ached over this matter!

Even so, due to his great efforts and potential, Palace Head Chen had still been willing to let Xue Ying exchange for them.

Xue Ying understood that being the Palace Head was not an easy job and thus did not request it. Instead, he came to dig them out himself!

While Xue Ying was digging out Origin Stones inside the major Transcendent World—

In a lonely, secluded castle by the sea...

Inside a quiet hall within the castle, two enormous black-colored oil lamps lit up the place in a gentle, flickering green light. A strange smell pervaded the entire hall.

A lone figure sat within the black fog.

Before this figure floated a crystal ball. The image of a black-robed old man with white hair, holding a bone scepter could be seen.

“High Priest!” The black-robed old man smiled.

“Elder Ao Lan, for what reason are you finding me this time?” said the figure within the black fog.

This white-haired old man dressed in black robes... was the highest existence amongst the beasts—the Great Elder of the Sorcerer Palace! He was ranked third on the Demigod ranking list. In fact, whether it was the Xia Clan or the Beast Clan, neither would truly trust in these Demigod rankings. This list had been determined by the Xia Clan upon gathering intelligence from various sources, but those old fogeys who hadn’t battled in several hundred years might have improved their combat power, so who could really tell their current powers?

These Demigod rankings could only be referenced as they could not absolutely ascertain one’s power.

For one to be on this list meant that their combat power had been recognized.

“It’s a very important matter.” The black-robed white-haired man smiled. “As you know, there is a genius among the humans called Dong Bo Xue Ying! This person had resolved the threat of your demon bases, destroying three of them by himself. In the last world, he had also killed Ji Er Luo, as well as a group of Reincarnators stronger than himself.”

“What exactly are you trying to say? These things were from the reports that I told you!” replied the figure within the black fog.

“What I want to say is that this Dong Bo Xue Ying has grasped hold of a legendary grade two True Meaning! If given the chance to grow, he might end up suppressing all other demigods of this era,” said the black-robed old man. “This is a huge threat to the Sorcerer Palace and the Demonic Faction’s grand plans. I feel that the sooner we eradicate him, the better!”

“Eradicate?” The figure inside the black fog continued, “If your Sorcerer Palace wishes to eradicate him, then it should just do so. What’s the point of coming here to find me?”

“My Sorcerer Palace will have a greater chance of success if we team up with your Demonic Faction!” said the black-robed old man. “The collaboration plan between Sorcerer Palace and the Demonic Faction won’t be destroyed so easily, but we must eradicate this threat!”

“Hmph!” The black-fogged figure snorted. “Ao Lan, do not treat me as a fool, alright? We would do whatever is necessary to set up the plan between our Demonic Faction and your Sorcerer Palace and not miss out on a single task! But don’t think we would risk our lives based on a few of your words on things we aren’t required to do. This Dong Bo Xue Ying already has such high combat power. With how shrewd the Infernal Palace is, they must have already arranged for a Deity warrior to protect him! You want to kill him? That’d be too difficult! It’s not worth the price our Demonic Faction would have to pay!”

“High Priest, are you truly that short-sighted?” The black-robed old man was quite angry.

“Hmph, we dare not go against orders given by the Demonic God. But without any orders from him, you, the Great Elder of the Sorcerer Palace, is not qualified to direct my Demonic Faction to do things,” The figure within the black fog sneered. “As for the threat that Dong Bo Xue Ying poses, hmph. I’ve long since reported it to the Demonic God. They can make their own decisions regarding this problem! If you’re that anxious, I can let you discuss it with our Demonic God if you want.”

The black-robed old man was so furious that his face turned green.

Actually, he had long reported this matter to his superiors.

However, the Sorcerer Deity had just told him to think of a solution by himself. After all, it would have to be a very complex matter for the Sorcerer Deity and the Demonic God to take over it themselves. The Sorcerer Deity wasn't willing to negotiate with the Demonic God just because of a mere Dong Bo Xue Ying.

"Alright, you truly are obedient. Then you just sit there and do what you have to do." The Sorcerer Palace Great Elder felt furious. *Hua*. His image disappeared.

"Hmph."

The black-fogged figure snorted. "Old fogey, although we get our orders from the Demonic God, our Demonic Faction is still made up of human Transcendents. Who cares about you beasts!"

.....

In the major Transcendent world.

Xue Ying gathered 0.9 million kilograms of Origin Stones before rushing to the location that Ancestor Black Wind had placed the treasure. Within a moment, Xue Yin reached a lake. He immediately dived in, tunneling under the bottom of the lake for about 150 kilometers before finally reaching the location of the treasure as displayed on the map!

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Chapter 12 – A Failure of the Laws

Underneath the lake, at a place about 150 kilometers underground...

Inside the Mirage, Xue Ying was currently looking around in puzzlement.

Where are the treasures? Where did Ancestor Black Wind place them? Xue Ying was bewildered as he thoroughly scanned his surroundings. The area covered by the Mirage was a full 500 kilometers around him, and, according to the directions specified on the map, the treasures should have been at his current location! Even if he had made an error, it wouldn't have exceeded 500 meters. *Why aren't they here? The Mirage reflects reality, so the treasures inside the reality should also appear inside the Mirage.*

Why can't I find them?

Unless... in these countless tens of thousands of years, have the treasures been discovered by the native Transcendents?

Xue Ying shook his head. *I can't believe there can be such a coincidence. This major Transcendent World is truly enormous, and this place is situated deep underground. The black rat had previously said that nobody, not even the native Transcendents, could find these treasures unless they saw them with their naked eyes. Discovering a treasure by accident in such a vast major Transcendent World is close to impossible. Furthermore, there are very few native Transcendents around. If they managed to discover this location... then they are truly lucky!*

Either way, I can't see them...

Xue Ying frowned as he continued observing thoroughly.

He was very confident in the Mirage. Whatever existed in reality would be reflected within the Mirage.

Unless...?

Xue Ting suddenly considered a possibility as his expression changed. *The black rat previously mentioned that the only method to find these treasures was to spot them with one's naked eyes! Did that also imply that the Mirage is also unable to show these treasures?*

That...

That shouldn't be too plausible.

The reality and the Mirage were like the two sides of the same coin! The reflection of the reality through the Mirage was one of the forms of the natural fundamental laws. For treasures located in the reality to not be reflected in the Mirage... that would signify a failure of the fundamental Laws of the World. This was something impossible even for a formidable, powerful Deity who was able to isolate the two worlds from each other! To prevent the Mirage from reflecting reality? That was an extremely arduous task!

Xue Ying had thought that the black rat's previous words regarding the fact that the treasures could only be seen with the naked eye were only referring to the common observation techniques. The 'Reflection of Reality in the Mirage' was a Law of the World, and should not have been included with these techniques.

How can it be that the Mirage doesn't reflect reality... How? Xue Ying mumbled in his heart.

Even though he did not dare believe, his figure still distorted out from the Mirage and into the real world.

These treasures should have either been discovered and taken away by native Transcendents, or they cannot be reflected by the Mirage! Xue Ying shook his head. He continued moving within the soil, borrowing the True Meaning of Star to merge with it and allowing his True Meaning to easily travel through it. He was carefully looking with his naked eyes at every edge and corner of the rock and soil around him. It was a truly slow and arduous task.

How much time would he need if he had to use his naked eyes to search for treasures in a radius of 500 meters?

Hong!

Xue Ying decided to just use World Energy to bombard the surrounding rocks and soil while also using it to seal the surrounding 5 kilometers, stopping any sound waves from bursting out! He had done so in order to prevent any other native Transcendent from being alerted.

Countless rocks and soil were being wantonly kneaded by the unseen force, occasionally into flatbread, at other times into spheres.

Pa!

Finally, he discovered a seemingly ordinary sack.

What!

Xue Ying dazedly looked at this sack. It was about a meter long, and very ordinary-looking. Its mouth was tied in a loop. If a mortal happened upon this sack, they wouldn't be stunned at its sight, and if a Demigod saw it, they would merely think it was a special treasure.

The Mirage actually failed to reflect it? Xue Ying looked at this seemingly ordinary sack in disbelief.

The 'Reflection of Reality in the Mirage' is one of the most fundamental Laws of the World! But this law... actually failed due to this sack? Xue Ying was truly in disbelief.

The True Meaning of Extremity, the True Meaning of Black Hole, the True Meaning of Splitting Heavens, the True Meaning of Chaos... these were all grade one True Meanings which represented the most crucial portion of the Laws of the World.

As for the True Meaning of Space, the True Meaning of Annihilation, the True Meaning of Mirage... they were similarly powerful grade two True Meanings and could represent a part of the fundamental Laws of the World. What was a part of the heaven and the earth without the True Meaning of Space? Without the laws of the Mirage? Without the laws of Annihilation? Without these laws,

that part of the heaven and the earth would be incomplete.

These fundamental laws could not be so easily overwritten.

One could depend on their combat power to forcibly isolate them, however! For instance, suppressing a pocket of space, splitting a pocket of space, sealing a world... these things could be directly initiated.

As for this sack, it actually had the ability to make the Mirage unable to reflect it. That was not simply strength; it had actually caused a law to fail entirely!

Where did this sack come from? Xue Ying immediately flew over, grabbed it, and tried to open it, only to find a floating vague black ink seal forming an unseen force which prevented him from doing so.

A moment later, Xue Ying remembered. *Oh, that's right. There's the key!*

Earlier, the black rat had also given him a key—an octagonal black ink talisman!

“Come.” With a thought, Xue Ying shoved the sack within his storage treasure, getting a strange feeling afterwards. As the owner of the storage treasure, he could sense an additional item inside, yet no matter how what he tried, he could not ‘see’ the sack. *How mysterious. Multiple laws have failed on it.*

.....

Hua.

Moving through the Mirage, Xue Ying immediately started his journey back.

On this trip to the major Transcendent World, he was afraid that the native Demigods might have a deep comprehension of the realms, allowing them to attack Xue Ying even inside the Mirage! Therefore, he had only sent a Qi Avatar over, naturally leaving behind the most important treasure—the key! As long as he didn’t bring the key, even if his Qi Avatar died, it would not mean much. The imaginary Deity warrior could still bring him back.

If the key as well as the treasures were to fall into the hands of the native Transcendents, the consequences would be dire.

A hundred-meter-tall door appeared on the sparkling, translucent wall of the Black Wind Deity Palace Underground Cavern Hall.

Weng—

A red-robed Xue Ying came rushing through this door, entering the Underground Great Hall.

He continued walking within the Mirage before reaching a sealed cultivation room within the palace. Inside this room was another figure—the black-robed Xue Ying! To be precise, it was his true body! The black-robed Xue Ying placed the dark-green talisman key within the hall and then immediately left within the Mirage.

Why did the true body leave?

Why did he intend to open the sack within this sealed secret room of the Black Wind Deity Palace?

It was precisely because he was worried!

After discovering the fact that this sack could prevent the law of the ‘Reflection of Reality in the Mirage’ from working, Xue Ying could not feel at ease. This ability transcended his current capabilities! According to his knowledge, not even many of the Deities could reach this stage. This, combined with the fact that Ancestor Black Wind had created a terrifying existence before his death, caused Xue Ying to be cautious of this sack!

What would happen upon opening it?

The Black Wind Deity Palace was filled with numerous heavy arrays able to suppress many possible scenarios! By using his Qi Avatar to handle this, he could make sure that even if it died, he could recover in two to three years. But in the case of his true body... his life would end on the spot!

Let's begin. I want to see what exactly has Ancestor Black Wind hidden in this sack. The red-robed Xue Ying pulled out the ‘strange item’ with a thought. Even though he was unable to see it, he could still force it out of his storage treasure.

Pa.

The sack fell down on the floor of this sealed cultivation room.

He then took the octagonal ink-black talisman key and walked to the side of the sack. As he got closer to it, an ink-black seal appeared on the surface of the sack! *Weng*— The ink-black seal started similarly glowing. The two reflected light upon each other, causing the talisman to fly out and inlay into the seal on the sack.

Without any signs of change, the ink-black seal on the sack dissipated completely, and the talisman key broke into pieces.

Alright, time to open it. Xue Ying was nervous. He walked towards the front side of the sack and carefully opened it...

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Chapter 13 – The Treasures That Dropped a Million Years Ago

Opening the sack, Xue Ying peered into it.

There were only two articles within it: a dark-gold wristband and a crystal ball. The dark-gold wristband was still faintly glowing, showing its extraordinariness. On the other hand, that crystal ball looked quite ordinary.

“No more?” After placing the two articles onto the ground, he looked within the sack carefully. It was empty.

“Weng!” Suddenly, on the ground, a glow appeared on the crystal ball.

That made Xue Ying turned his head towards it in shock.

There were two figures on top of the glowing crystal ball—one was an old man with long, black hair and a tyrannical coldness in his eyes.

“I am Black Wind,” the old man with long, black hair coldly said.

Ancestor Black Wind? Xue Ying mentally twitched. He knew that this was a projection left behind on the crystal ball. Ancestor Black Wind had died long ago. *Seeing his projection, this Ancestor Black Wind should be a truly overbearing and tyrannical person. Who would have thought that the strongest Demigod in the recent one million years would have such a demeanor.*

Ancestor Black Wind had no opponents at that time! For the sake of becoming a Deity, he had even done something extremely crazy, causing his combat power to rise even more!

Thus, this Ancestor Black Wind’s combat power reached a truly terrifying stage.

In addition to being a person who surpassed the Demigods in his era, he also was known as the strongest Demigod in the past million years!

“For you to receive this message left behind by me, I guess your combat power should be quite close to mine.” The old man with long, black hair said, “You should be the strongest one in this current era of Xia Clan.”

Xue Ying muttered to himself.

Quite close?

He was still far away! If he went head-on with the Deity warriors, he could not defeat either the Five Shadows or the black rat, nor could he destroy the frightening arrays behind them. He succeeded solely by ‘walking in the Mirage.’

“Being the strongest Demigod of this era, you should have strength to take up the responsibility for the Xia Clan!” Ancestor Black Wind coldly said, “I don’t require you to go there now, however, so you can wait until the end of your lifespan before taking up the responsibility!”

“Responsibility?” Xue Ying was puzzled.

“You might be really confused now and not understand what I am saying.” Ancestor Black Wind continued, “And possibly...the Infernal Palace Palace Head of this era might have already told you this secret. Nevertheless, I’ll explain.”

Xue Ying listened carefully.

Ancestor Black Wind was involved in very many secrets, which Palace Head Chen was not willing to speak of.

“The world exists whilst brimming with many unknowns.” Ancestor Black Wind’s eyes acquired a strange tint, seemingly mentioning something irrelevant. “Once the world comes into being, life begins to increase gradually in number. This is a very ordinary scenario. According to ordinary laws, after endless years, the world will gradually deteriorate with age before completely crumbling, bringing about The Great Annihilation! Our Xia Clan, the native Transcendents, and the Beast Clans will all perish from this! After The Great Annihilation, the Xia Clan’s world will once again produce a new mortal world, and life will start multiplying again... Maybe they will have a human race. They might not even be part of our Xia Clan anymore!”

“However, a world deteriorating with age and crumbling would mean the end of a cycle.” Ancestor Black Wind said, “Sometimes, a world might even crumble and break apart prematurely due to other reasons.”

Xue Ying nodded.

That was right.

It was just like those minor and major Transcendent Worlds. Their origin stemmed from Origin Stones. Thus, if too many stones were dug out, the Transcendent World would crumble prematurely.

With the same logic—

The more stable and perfect a mortal world was, the more likely it would crumble apart prematurely. If a Mortal World was highly stable, however, its desire to prematurely crumble and perish would also be highly difficult.

“The mortal world is really stable. Under normal circumstances, it will be able to recover from injuries.” Ancestor Black Wind frowned. “During the East Hou Calendar, Year 56005, something that could possibly cause The Great Annihilation of our Xia Clan World happened!”

East Hou Calendar Year 56006?

Xue Ying’s heart immediately made the deduction—this should be something that happened over 1.1 million years ago during the era of Great Emperor East Hou, one of the ancestors of Xia Clan who had become a Deity.

Something that could cause the mortal world to be destroyed? What exactly happened 1.1 million years ago?

“That happened during the daytime, at about noon. It was a seemingly ordinary day!”

“Suddenly, a fiery-red glow fell from the sky!”

“This fiery-red glow penetrated through the entire barrier of the material world, penetrating through all membranes blocking its path before entering our Xia Clan’s World.” Ancestor Black Wind said, “Its fall resulted in the surrounding 5,000 kilometers to turn into ruins. All lives were exterminated, such that even two Transcendents from our Xia Clan died. One of them was a Demigod!”

Xue Ying's heart trembled as he heard this.

The power of its mere fall had created a shockwave encompassing 5,000 kilometers? If a Demigod intentionally replicated this, his attack might only cover 500 kilometers. During normal battle, however, they would try to concentrate their power and not let it spread completely! Thus, the shockwaves of their battles would not be too big. Usually, with a move by a Xia Clan Demigod, the shockwave reaching five kilometers away was something ordinary.

The further the transmittance of the power, the harder it would get.

Just a simple fall had created a shockwave that affected an area of 5,000 kilometers? That was even more terrifying than Deities!

"This isn't that big of a concern." Ancestor Black Wind added, "After it fell, a group of outsiders came into the world! And there were many teams of Temporal Temple's Reincarnators following that. According to what I know... these outsiders and the Reincarnators of the Temporal Temple were genuinely the elite of peak Demigods. The vast majority had combat power similar to mine, with some even more powerful than me!"

Xue Ying's expression changed.

Stronger than even Ancestor Black Wind?

And these 'outsiders'...one should know that the mortal world was really stable, and no living beings from the outside world could enter easily. Like how the Dark Abyss might form passageways occasionally for demons to come, they were formed without rules.

For outsiders to enter, most of them would usually use this method—inviting the Temporal Temple and sending them directly into a mortal world! Sending treasures and sending people in were two different things. Their price greatly differ!

That fiery-red glow's fall...could lead to so many experts chasing for it?

"You should guess it by now. That's right; it's that fiery-red glow." Ancestor Black Wind said, "The Deity World and the Dark Abyss have all sent some Demigod underlings over. Even Reincarnators from the Temporal Temple came!"

All of them came for the sake of that fiery-red light. They came batch by batch, causing a lot to die from the battle. Those who survived were very few, with not even one in ten surviving!"

"My Xia Clan has watched this by the side with fear. Only two Demigods went to investigate, yet they never returned. During that period, my Xia Clan has become the fishpond where disasters came, suffering greatly!"

"But we had no choice!"

"Those Demigods were sent by the superpowers from the Deity World and Dark Abyss and were the strongest amongst the peak Demigods!"

"Because too many of them have died with the price of sending them into this world becoming too great, fewer decided to come as time went by." Ancestor Black Wind said, "But every tens of thousands of years, there will still be batches of outsiders entering. Firstly, those who survived will be able to bring some treasures back. Secondly, the superpowers of the Deity World and Dark Abyss held great desire in obtaining that fallen treasure."

"This fallen treasure is the peak of a mountain!" Ancestor Black Wind said, "According to the interaction we had with these outsiders and those Reincarnators of Temporal Temples, this mountain peak was named 'Crimson Rock Mountain!' This is also what might spark The Great Annihilation of our mortal world!"

Chapter 14 – Corpses of Biological Creatures

“The location of Crimson Rock Mountain is about 5,000 kilometers underneath our Xia Clan World!”

“It’s very unique.”

Ancestor Black Wind frowned as signs of recollection were reflected in his eyes. “When faced with it, every single Law of the World will lose effectiveness—even the laws of time and space! It is very small, a single point smaller than even grit. Yet the closer you walk to it...the bigger it gets, appearing vast and boundless. You could not use space to measure its size as you normally would.

“When it comes to time, it is even more mysterious and unpredictable. Only by entering the object can one truly know how frightening it is! But there is one thing we know—the moment any change occurs to it, is the moment the Xia Clan World might be easily annihilated!”

The more he heard about it, the more Xue Ying felt bewildered and unconvinced.

Transcending space and time?

It could not be accurately determined how large it was? What exactly was this thing?

“That foolish Palace Head of the Infernal Palace! He truly couldn’t comprehend the threat my Xia Clan faced. I requested a Deity weapon so I could enter the Crimson Rock Mountain again, yet he rejected me,” Ancestor Black Wind angrily said. “A Deity weapon would trigger a tremendous rise in my combat power, which would in turn allow me to obtain even more treasures

from within the Crimson Rock Mountain! I might have even become a Deity, ultimately leaving those treasures behind to the Xia Clan, is that not right?

“I had even put up my subordinates, the Five Shadows, to trade for a Deity weapon, yet he still disagreed! The Five Shadows constitute of five different Deity warriors, the strongest two even being as strong as the Deity warriors left behind by the ancestors of the Xia Clan.

“Damn.

“Idiots.

“Short-sighted!” Ancestor Black Wind was full of frustration and anger. “After that, I obtained certain materials from the corpse of an unknown biological creature and eventually succeeded in engineering a special life-form. This life-form would become exponentially stronger as it grew! I truly wasn’t willing to killing, yet I had to do so. But who would’ve thought that it was hiding its true combat power and that by the time I started acting, it could actually suppress me? I escaped to the Black Wind Deity Palace where it followed me. There, I was finally able to kill it, assisted by the power of the palace! I had long since reached the end of my lifespan, so after this huge battle, my days were numbered.

“This proved a single thing, however. The life-form I engineered from the corpse of the unknown biological creature was this terrifying! It could bring calamity to my Xia Clan, so the threat of the Crimson Rock Mountain will be extremely huge!

“The Infernal Palace dared to be so short-sighted, so I was unwilling to leave even a single treasure for them.

“For you to have passed by test, your combat power must be about the same as mine. With the added help of the seven Deity warriors...you should have a greater chance of success in the Crimson Rock Mountain!” Ancestor Black Wind coldly said. “Although I have no hope left for myself, I still wish that the future generations of the Xia Clan will take the risk and adventure in the Crimson Rock Mountain. In the end, I cannot simply wish that no big trouble will arise because of this Crimson Rock Mountain. We must take initiative, so that we can earn more!

“Such a pity...

“Such a pity that I cannot broaden my Deity Sea to become a Deity.” Ancestor Black Wind had a tinge of unwillingness in his eyes. “I leave my treasures behind to you. Remember to handle the corpses of the biological creatures with extra care, lest another crisis occur.”

Weng—

With those words, the image of Ancestor Black Wind disappeared.

The glow of that crystal ball completely vanished.

Having listened to the story, Xue Ying understood what had happened...

Ancestor Black Wind and the Palace Head of that era had become estranged because of such a thing—for a Deity weapon?

In all honesty, Xue Ying was actually standing more towards the side of the Palace Head of the Infernal Palace.

His reasoning was that the number of Deity weapons was too small. Every single one of them was left behind painstakingly by the ancestor of the Xia Clan. On the other hand, the Crimson Rock Mountain was much too dangerous. Had they not seen how the superpowers of the Deity world and the Dark Abyss sent their strongest Demigods, yet even they had died in groups, with one out of ten coming out alive at the most? It must be known that most of them were as strong as Ancestor Black Wind, with some even stronger!

Clearly, the Crimson Rock Mountain was too dangerous!

If one brought a Deity weapon inside and then died, that weapon would be lost there.

Actually, Ancestor Black Wind’s explanation regarding how it’ll bring The Great Annihilation upon the Xia Clan is merely alarmist talk, pondered Xue Ying. After all, the Deity World and the Dark Abyss have sent so many powerful Demigods, yet none of them could overcome the Crimson Rock Mountain. How easy would it be to resolve this calamity? Everything he did was merely for the sake of being able to bring in a Deity weapon so he could find some opportunity to become a Deity.

The Infernal Palace would always make a decision from the perspective of the Xia Clan.

Losing a Deity weapon now, and then another later, and so on...the Xia Clan would gradually become weaker as time passed by.

.....

Xue Ying put the crystal ball away before taking up the other article within the sack—the dark-gold wristband. The moment he held it, he was easily able to refine it.

My, what a large space. Xue Ying's eyes brightened. *This is the biggest storage treasure I have ever gotten.*

The storage space within the dark-gold wristband was shocking. It was a full 500 meters long, wide, and high.

Inside was a pile of dull, gray stones. Naturally, these were Origin Stones.

0.8 million kilograms of Origin Stones? Xue Ying confirmed the number with a single glance, and was pleasantly surprised. *It appears that Ancestor Black Wind had raked in the Origin Stones within the major Transcendent World as well. Furthermore, Ancestor Black Wind should have cultivated to the peak, making it pointless for him to use Origin Stones, thus deciding to leave them behind for me. Adding up the previously obtained 0.9 million kilograms of Origin Stones, my total is now 1.7 million kilograms.*

Heavens.

That was a truly frightening number. Even if a Demigod of the Xia Clan had more contribution points, the current Infernal Palace could not exchange them for more than 500,000 kilograms of Origin Stones! They would not be willing to offer any more. If one wanted even more, they would have to exchange for them with other Demigods or go dig them out in major Transcendent Worlds.

He had over 1.5 million kilograms of Origin Stones in hand... Who knew how many the Xia Clan had dug out and how many they had given away to other Transcendents? Thus, Xue Ying suspected that he might very well have been the Transcendent holding the most Origin Stones!

Ancestor Black Wind's treasures are indeed extraordinary. Xue Ying looked at another pile of miscellaneous treasures that did not hold too much value.

Talismans!

There was also a stack of talismans, with the talisman controlling the seven Deity warriors being the brightest of them—its quality really was different. The others were just refiner organism talismans. After all, there were still plenty of other refiner organisms situated within the Black Wind Deity Palace. Xue Ying could now guess that the large amounts of Transcendent materials that the refiner organisms such as the Black Dragon were made of were mostly likely obtained inside the Crimson Rock Mountain.

“Are those three the corpses of the biological beings?” Xue Ying was startled at their image; he felt his heart tighten.

Three unique corpses floated within the storage treasure. The largest one was a four-legged beast, its body about 100 meters long. Its entire body was covered in silk-like hair, preventing one from seeing its head. The smallest was a humanoid creature about three meters tall. Its figure naturally was covered in scales, and on its head it still had hair, along with a total of 12 horns towards the top. The final corpse was of a creature about six meters tall, its body similar with a human's with two legs jointly connected to the body and six horns on its head.

Their auras were terrifying!

Even though he was sensing them through the storage space, Xue Ying's heart started trembling from the feeling, causing his legs to weaken! One must know that his current combat power was quite high; not even facing a Deity would result in such a feeling.

Unless... were these creatures even stronger than Deities when they were still alive? Xue Ying thought back to how Ancestor Black Wind said he had done some experiments on engineering a life from some biological materials taken from a corpse before bringing about a calamity. *Until I don't have absolute strength; until I have certainty of myself, these three corpses must be kept secret. I will temporarily keep them with me and prevent any Transcendent mage from experimenting on them!*

Transcendent mages loved doing experiments regarding the bloodlines and the soul. If they got their hand on these terrifying corpses, how many of them could hold themselves back?

.....

After checking through the remaining treasures, Xue Ying immediately started refining the talismans. As for this supposed 'Crimson Rock Mountain'?

He did not show any interest in it!

Most of those with a combat power similar to Ancestor Black Wind's, and even those stronger than him, had died within that place, with barely one out of ten making it out alive. Did he think that his life was too long, so he wanted to seek death by going to the Crimson Rock Mountain? Maybe when he neared the end of his lifespan, he could possibly go try his luck. But before than, Xue Ying had no plans to visit the place. The reason for Ancestor Black Wind being so crazy was that he reached the end of his lifespan, was it not? If he could live for another two or three hundred years, he most likely wouldn't have gone for an adventure either.

Hong long long~ The originally sealed cultivation room started opening once again.

Xiu xiu xiu xiu xiu...

Figure after figure showed up in quick succession.

They were the black rat who was half as tall as a human, the mighty gold man, the calm and cold child, the beautiful, attractive woman, the red-haired handsome teenager, the gray-robed boy, and the White Ape condensed from white fog.

The seven Deity warriors were extremely respectful and excited. "Greetings, master!"

Chapter 15 – Pu Yang Bo

The seven of them had never thought that they would be free so soon. After all, collecting the treasure from the major Transcendent World in the presence of native Demigods that should not be riled was a dangerous task!

“Give me a brief introduction to all your combat powers.” Xue Ying eyed the seven warriors in front of him, trying to calm the excitement within his heart. These were seven Deity warriors with a truly tyrannical combat power! Excluding the True Meaning of Mirage, the weakest White Fog Ape was comparable to him! The other six were much stronger than him.

“Master, you can call me Bi Mo!” The Black Rat said. “That is the name given to me by my first master.”

“I am the leader of the Five Shadows, Gold Devil!” The gold man said vigorously.

“I am the second amongst the Five Shadows, Saint Child.” A cold and apathetic child said. His eyes were filled with a cold and endless darkness.

“I am the third of the Five Shadows, Delicate Beauty!” The seductive woman smiled with an attractive charm. If Xue Ying judged by appearances, then this woman would be the number one most beautiful girl he had ever seen. Her appearance and figure were perfect! A smile and a knit of her brows would move the souls of others. If she was compared to his Jing Qiu though, there was still a point she lacked.

Jing Qiu might not be as beautiful as this seductive woman in terms of appearances, but Jing Qiu exuded this aura that could be described as—human! Although Deity warriors had spirit, they were so perfect that they did not feel human anymore.

“I am the fourth, Battle General!” The red-haired handsome teenager was full of mettle as he said, “Master, if you have any enemy whom you want to defeat, just call me.”

“I am the fifth, Blade Assassin!” The gray-robed male did not say much.

The very last Deity warrior would be the White Fog Ape. He introduced himself. “I am called Lei Wu, and am the weakest amongst the seven.”

The gold man continued, “If we were to compare the combat power between Water Rat, second brother, and me, we are quite close to one another. If it’s in terms of direct offense, then I’m the strongest! Regarding defense, then Water Rat is the best in that area! Second brother is balanced in both aspects. Although he might be weaker than the Water Rat in terms of defense, his offensive ability is quite close to mine. Our combat powers are similar to the limit Deity warriors are placed under by the Laws of the World in the mortal world.”

Xue Ying felt great joy from hearing that.

Three Deity warriors that were close to the limit of power?

“Third sister’s specialty is seducing and assassinating others. Fourth and fifth brother specialize in direct offense.” The gold man said, “We, as the Five Shadows, were refined from a single expert in the Deity world. One material was used to make all of us, the ‘Deity World Shadow Wood’. This gives the five of us the innate ability to enter the shadow space. To us, living in the shadow space is as easy as breathing. For our entire life, it’ll remain as easy as always, and that’s the reason why we are termed as the Five Shadows!”

“Moving through the shadow space?” Xue Ying’s eyes brightened after hearing that.

For someone to survive eternally in the shadow space, it was akin to the first stage realm of the True Meaning of Mirage. As a result, the five of them were proficient in assassinations as well!

Of course, compared to Xue Ying who could walk in the Mirage, there was some qualitative differences!

“Right now, I want all of you to clean out the entire Black Wind Deity Palace.

“Whatever you can carry, just take it.” Xue Ying requested, “In a bit, we’ll congregate in the main hall.”

“Yes.” The seven Deity warriors immediately disappeared.

.....

A short moment later.

At the entrance to the Black Wind Deity Palace’s Cavern Palace, the red-robed Xue Ying walked out with seven Deity warriors and 12 refiner organisms following behind him.

“Master.” In front of Xue Ying was a gigantic Black Dragon that was currently entrenched in the ground. His figure was huge, so he could only obediently extend his head towards Xue Ying while lowering his head and look excitedly at Xue Ying with the pair of gigantic golden eyes, “You are too formidable. I truly did not expect that I could regain my freedom so soon. Haha, I, Black Dragon, am finally free!”

“You still cannot leave this place!” Xue Ying said.

“Ah!” The Black Dragon’s two golden eyes immediately widened like two wide balls.

“I’ve already obtained the inheritance from the Black Wind Deity Palace, but for this period of time, I do not want anyone to know about it.” Xue Ying said, “This is why you and the refiner organisms behind you should temporarily remain in the Black Wind Abyss as the protectors for this location like in the past. This is done in order to mislead other people.”

“That cannot be possible, Master!” Black Dragon hurriedly shouted. “I’ve waited for this day for far too long... Why can the seven of them leave and not me? Is it because I, old dragon’s, combat power is the weakest? I know I can’t defeat the seven of them, but I should be stronger than the 12 Saint refiner organisms over there.”

Xue Ying laughed. “This is unrelated to how strong or weak you are. It’s just that your reputation as the Black Dragon is too huge! Everyone knows that there is a Black Dragon stationed outside the Black Wind Deity Palace protecting it. If you disappeared suddenly, it’ll certainly attract unwanted

attention... Thus, I believe you should know your importance compared to all of them. This is also the reason why they can leave, but you must temporarily remain here."

""Oh." The Black Dragon's head lowered with understanding. If he left, then it would be akin to publicizing the news that the treasures of the Black Wind Deity Palace had been obtained.

Even though publicizing it might not be anything huge, right now, the Demon Generals were all lurking in the dark. Xue Ying did not wish for it to be known as of now.

"Master, how long do I have to wait for?" The Black Dragon asked Xue Ying, his golden eyes filled with expectations. It truly wished to get out.

"If it's short, then about ten years. Otherwise, it could be as long as 100 years," Xue Ying answered.

"Alright, alright." The Black Dragon obediently acknowledged. It immediately glanced at the refiner organisms by his side. These were the refiner organisms who had accompanied him these few years. "Do you hear that? All of you must continue protecting the palace. That's the order given by the master."

Xue Ying shook his head, smiling as he waved his hand.

The seven Deity warriors and 12 refiner organisms were immediately stored inside. Xue Ying truly found this aspect of Deity warriors remarkable—they could survive for long periods of time and even be stored in a storage space!

Xiu!

He immediately turned into a stream before appearing 50 kilometers away at the peak of Snowrock mountain.

.....

Standing above Snowrock Castle, the current sky had turned dusky. It was already evening.

Xue Ying looked into the distance.

Before becoming a Transcendent, his Transcendent body could see even a small earthworm 50 kilometers away. Today, his current combat power was

even greater than the past. Even though the Transcendent Qi-condensed Qi Avatar did not have a qualitative change in its vision power, it was still on another level compared to when he just became a Transcendent. Even if it was a city 500 kilometers away, he would still be able to see it, albeit slightly blurry.

Five thousand kilometers was the extent his eyes could see...

There were countless villages, small towns, and cities all around. The cities were still vaguely filled with bright light with many people moving around.

“Countless mortals live by so many different kinds of lifestyles. Some might always be constantly on the move, while others become an outstanding person,” Xue Ying softly said. “However, there are still the damnable demons hiding behind them! Especially those Demon Generals. The Demon Generals are currently all hiding in the dark, none taking action yet. The moment they move, the result of their actions will cause billions of mortals to die!”

Demon Generals.

To them, the mortal world was their utopia. The material world’s human souls were their greatest nutrition.

“Right now, they are all hiding and eating large quantities of human souls gifted to them by the abundant weak little demons. The more they eat, the stronger they get. Their combat power would certainly improve over time. Either they had already become a Demonic God, or too many weak demons had died, bringing about the lack of contribution of human souls by these demons. That should be the time when the Demon Generals bare their fangs.

“They will wantonly eat the souls of humans, eating so maniacally that it might possibly annihilate an entire country.”

“If we fought one against one, the Xia Clan Demigods would never be able to kill them. Only when the strongest Xia Clan’s Demigod surround and attack them do we have a chance of killing one of them.

“Even though my Xia Clan’s combat power can exterminate them, how many people will have to die from it?”

Xue Ying shook his head inwardly.

There was a possibility that Demigods would die from the battle. As for mortals? That would be unimaginable.

My next move is to find these Demon Generals! After finding them, we'll kill them! Xue Ying thought. But first, I have to test if they would be able to sense me when I'm walking in the Mirage! Mn. Tomorrow I'll find Faction Head Si Kong Yang and Vice Faction Head Chao Qing to try this out."

.....

That night.

Xue Ying was eating dinner with his family.

As for matters regarding the Deity warriors, Xue Ying did not tell his family members as well since there would be no benefits in telling them that! However, he had already decided how he would assign the seven Deity warriors.

Pa. The chopsticks in Jing Qiu's hand fell down.

Xue Ying's expression changed too.

News had come—

Pu Yang Bo, killed in action! He was killed in battle at Spring Sun City.

"Disciple Brother Pu Yang Bo." Jing Qiu could not believe it.

"Pu Yang!" Xue Ying's expression paled as he felt his heart tightening.

In the past 20 years, none of the substitute elders from Scarlet Cloud Mountain World had died, but today, the five demon bases situated within the minor Transcendents World had been exterminated while the other demons had retreated. Right when the Transcendents of Xia Clan were celebrating, someone died. How long had it been? Just a month! The New Year had only just passed, but Pu Yang had already died in battle?

Pu Yang Bo had a good relationship with Xue Ying when they were in Scarlet Cloud Mountain World.

He was actually ranked first from the bottom! Only after Xue Ying had been reprimanded by Faction Head Si Kong Yang and fell to the last position did Pu

Yang became second last! He, Pu Yang Bo, Yu Feng and Zhang Peng were the top four from the bottom, though Xue Ying was quite pitiful during that period of ten years as the Elders of Xia Clan felt truly disappointed in him.

At that time, the others from Scarlet Cloud Mountain had started drifting away from Xue Ying.

But not Pu Yang Bo, Yu Feng and Zhang Peng. The three of them had always been brothers to Xue Ying, and that was before Jing Qiu and Yuan Qing had joined them.

“Pu Yang, my brother!” Xue Ying’s eyes somewhat filled with tears. “How did this happen?”

The demon bases had already been exterminated!

Even though there were still Transcendents dying after that, the threat they brought had been greatly reduced! Furthermore, Pu Yang was extremely good at teleportation, to the extent that he could even teleport during battle! Yet he still died?

He was still young.

After so many years, he had finally chased after a female Transcendent...

And he had died just like that?

“Senior Disciple Brother Pu Yang, he...” Jing Qiu looked towards Xue Ying beside her. She was the closest to Xue Ying in Scarlet Cloud Mountain World. Although, she had joined them quite late, her relationship with Pu Yang Bo was relatively good after living together for so many years. How could she not feel sad over his death? But she understood that Xue Ying and Pu Yang Bo were even closer. That time when they were ranked from the bottom together, they had become true brothers.

“Father, mother.” Xue Ying stood up, trying to control his sorrow. “We need to go out for a moment.”

After saying that, Xue Ying and Jing Qiu immediately left the restaurant.

Hu.

The two of them started flying at a rapid speed.

“Let’s go to Spring Sun City.” Xue Ying waved his hand. *Si la~~~* Space was torn apart. Holding Jing Qiu’s hand, they immediately flew through the space tear.

|

Chapter 16 – Begining to Move

Spring Sun City was located in the western region of the mainland continent in Bright Sands Province.

The city was built atop an oasis, surrounded by a vast and boundless desert... In fact, the entire Bright Sands Province was a desert region. It had a much larger area than many other provinces, though it was sparsely populated. In this region spanning over 500 kilometers in radius, it was normal for one to not come across any human.

Si la~

In the sky above Spring Sun City, a pitch black tear in space appeared, which a young male and female came flying out of.

Xue Ying used his True Meaning of Star to scan the area below him. Everything in a radius of 50 kilometers around him was part of his Absolute Perception Zone! The Spring Sun City was relatively small, similar to the Water Rites Town. Thus, the entire city was within his Absolute Perception Zone.

“Over there.” Xue Ying brought Jing Qiu along with him. *Shua*. With a teleportation, they appeared within the city.

Next to a street in the city...

There was a huge pit, hundreds of meters in radius. The space around it had already been sealed shut to prevent mortals from approaching.

“Xue Ying.” There were two figures standing by the side of that pit. One of them was the current strongest man under the heavens, Mountain Lord He, and the other was a Demigod from the Black White Deity Mountain, ‘Ghost Deity Knight’ Feng Dong. The latter’s entire body was covered in a cold and dark aura. This was a person who could be considered an ordinary Demigod. He was best

known for his loss to Chi Qiu Bai back when Chi Qiu Bai was a Saint!

“Mountain Lord He, Vice Mountain Lord Feng.” Xue Ying and Jing Qiu greeted them.

“You and that brat Pu Yang were good brothers in the Crimson Cloud Mountain World, right?” Mountain Lord He sighed. “I truly didn’t expect that after celebrating the extermination of those demon bases last year, just a month later... this Pu Yang brat would be killed in action. He was skilled in teleportation. Could there be another formidable rank five demon hiding in the dark that killed Pu Yang in a single move?”

“His methods are truly too vile!” Xue Ying commented coldly. “Killing him instantly without leaving any of Pu Yang Bo’s treasures behind.”

Xue Ying and Jing Qiu stood in front of that deep pit.

Looking at this circular pit with a radius of 100 meters...

“Pu Yang.” Xue Ying’s eyes were filled with a faint killing intent. He murmured, “Those damned demons!”

How many had it been...

All his good friends were leaving him one by one. With some he might have just drank a few times, while with others he had deeper relationships. At the Crimson Cloud Mountain, they had lived together day and night...for more than 20 years already! They had lived together for such a long period of time. Even among his own family members, how many of them stayed together with him every single day for more than 20 years? Xue Ying had long treated Yu Feng, Pu Yang Bo and Zhang Peng as his good brothers. He also viewed Yuan Qing, the youngest with whom he had a close relationship, as family.

“Pu Yang, I’ll definitely avenge you! Tomorrow, I’ll begin my mission to find those Demon Generals!” Xue Ying tried his utmost to calm his emotions.

He had experienced too many of his good Transcendent friends dying these past few years.

And even so, he felt his heart ache every single time.

.....

Other than Xue Ying and the few who came over to grieve the death of Pu Yang Bo, Si Kong Yang, Gong Yu, and Chi Qiu Bai had also rushed over. They were, after all, the teachers within the Crimson Cloud Mountain World! As Pu Yang Bo's former teacher, Si Kong Yang hated the fact that Pu Yang Bo 'could not become steel from iron,' yet right now, he could only sigh and suppress all the anger in his heart. He had personally taught this group of young Transcendents, and although he might have held a trace of dissatisfaction, it was only aimed at aspects related to their cultivation.

Having interacted with them for a period of time, these young Transcendents were akin to being his nephews.

In his heart, Si Kong Yang also felt Pu Yang Bo's death to be unbearable.

But they could only bury this fury deep in their hearts!

They understood...

In their war against the demons, the eradication of the demon bases had only given the Transcendents of the Xia Clan better days to live, but it did not entirely eliminate the possibility of deaths occurring! Furthermore, the most terrifying five Demon Generals were still alive, and all of them were in hiding. Without solving the issue of the Demon Generals, this war would never end!

The next day.

Xue Ying left Snowrock Castle by himself. Despite the urge to immediately seek the Demon Generals, he had one thing to find out before that...and that was just how formidable his True Meaning of Mirage was! Wouldn't he just end up being found otherwise?

Si la~

First, he tore through space and headed to the northern Great Snowy Plains.

Only then did he enter the Mirage. Flying for more than 500 kilometers, he got close to the Water Daoist Faction.

Within the Mirage.

A black-robed Xue Ying was carefully observing his surroundings. The Mirage

reflected reality, so there was a Water Daoist Faction within the Mirage as well! It looked exactly the same as the one in the reality, even down to the weapons, treasures, and figures within the Water Daoist Faction. Xue Ying went in gradually, allowing the area reflected upon the Mirage to become greater. For the first attempt, he would envelop Vice Faction Head Chao!

“Vice Faction Head Chao!” Xue Ying immediately spotted him with a single glance.

He was currently still fishing.

Sitting by himself and without any footwear, he was fishing by the side of the lake. Although the entirety of the snowy plains was cold during all four seasons, the temperature within the Water Daoist Faction could be controlled, and in some places birds were singing and flowers were blooming.

“No disturbances.” Xue Ying observed him thoroughly. Vice Faction Head Chao was currently fishing with his eyes closed. He was truly carefree and lacked movement in his muscles, face, and eyes. Most likely, he had yet to discover Xue Ying.

“Let’s go and find Faction Head Si Kong Yang. He should have a Qi Avatar placed here!”

Xue Ying continued deeper inside, searching the area within 500 kilometers around himself.

As he got closer, the region of Water Daoist Faction being enveloped became greater and greater.

Finally—

Si Kong Yang was currently sitting cross legged atop a mountain peak. He was as bright as the sun.

According to the records pertaining to Demigod rankers, a total of four Demigods had condensed a True Deity Heart in the entire Xia Clan World, two of which were humans. One of them was the Water Daoist Faction Head, Si Kong Yang, while the other was Mountain Lord He of the Black White Deity Mountain. Thus, Si Kong Yang and Mountain Lord He were the two most important subjects for Xue Ying’s experiments.

Since both had condensed True Deity Hearts, the strongest, most terrifying Demon General should have a comprehension similar to theirs!

“Mn?” Xue Ying was observing Si Kong Yang’s actions—his muscles, his expressions, the movements of his surrounding aura.

“No changes!”

Xue Ying was startled and happy at the same time.

Faction Head Si Kong Yang is located a few hundred kilometers away from me and should not be able to sense me in the Mirage, Xue Ying understood after pondering it for a moment.

Separated by a few hundred kilometers...

In order to sense Xue Ying, one could only depend on the comprehension of the Laws of Profound Mysteries! And Xue Ying was within the Mirage without engaging in any intense battles. It was truly difficult for someone to depend on his own understanding of the Laws of Profound Mysteries to sense someone within the Mirage.

Were it so simple to uncover his presence in the Mirage, then the experts who had grasped hold of the True Meaning of Mirage would not have their reputation as the most frightening assassins!

Unless the opponent’s comprehension of the realms was truly too great or directly opposed to the Mirage, the assassins hidden within the Mirage would not be so easily discovered before they took action!

Indeed, it’s a grade two True Meaning with an offensive ability ranked one from the bottom. Xue Ying inwardly sighed. Its offensive power might have been weak, unable to even compare to those of grade three True Meanings, yet in its other aspects, it was heaven-shattering! The Deity World had a saying of how one would rather meet an expert using any other True Meaning than the True Meaning of Mirage. This showed the sinister underlying aspects of an expert hidden in the Mirage—the most appropriate assassin.

Faction Head Si Kong Yang’s comprehension of the realms is already very high. Most of the five Demon Generals should not have reached his degree of comprehension, Xue Ying speculated. However, I’ll have to try it out on

Mountain Lord He first as ultimately, he is currently the strongest expert.

Xiu!

Walking in the Mirage, he flew at top speed and disappeared soundlessly.

Within the Water Daoist Faction, both Chao Qing and Si Kong Yang had been completely unable to sense him.

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Chapter 17 – Blanket Search

Black White Deity Mountain was a superpower in the Xia Clan. It held the most mages and was the organization with the most accomplished research results among them. Although it controlled the six central provinces, many other Transcendent mages from other provinces joined them as well.

Mountain Lord He currently held the undisputed position of the strongest mage.

Hua!

In the Mirage, Xue Ying was currently nearing Black White Deity Mountain at great speed. Very soon, he had enveloped the entire Black White Deity Mountain!

“I’ve found him.” Xue Ying immediately discovered Mountain Lord He.

Mountain Lord He was currently sitting cross-legged atop one of the mountain peaks. Two mysterious black and white bent moons were floated by his side. At the same time, countless seals were appearing on top of these moons, and, for a moment, these dense seals aggregated to form large amounts of solid images which would make anyone’s headache upon seeing them.

These two black and white bent moons naturally formed the strongest Deity weapon of the Black White Deity Mountain—the Black White Moon Wheel! Although it had not been ranked as the strongest Xia Clan Deity weapon, in the hands of Mountain Lord He, the potential combat power it could unleash was much greater than any other Demigod’s!

Mountain Lord He frowned before turning his head over towards the

direction where Xue Ying was located at.

“He discovered me?” Xue Ying was shocked. Without a doubt, he had been found!

Mountain Lord He’s vision had seemingly passed through space itself as he stared in Xue Ying’s direction.

“However, from his expression of doubt, he hasn’t discovered it was me. Let’s go.” Xue Ying finished testing his True Meaning of Mirage, so he left without hesitation. He would not reveal this method of searching for the Demon Generals, or the True Meaning of Mirage, to anyone for the moment. Only in the future would he tell Palace Head Chen at first. After all, he was the only person whom Xue Ying could truly trust!

As for the other Transcendents?

Mountain Lord He and the rest were worthy of being trusted. Their combat powers were huge, and the Xia Clan had provided them with resources. Thus, they did not have a need to betray the Xia Clan and depend on the Demonic Faction. As such, Mountain Lord He, Si Kong Yang, and the others could learn the many secrets of their clan as well.

But as long as he didn’t have any reason to reveal them, Xue Ying would rather refrain from doing so.

“Who?” Mountain Lord He frowned in suspicion. *There was an expert hiding about a hundred kilometers away from here? Such a formidable technique. Was it a spell? Or was it done through the assistance of a Deity weapon for concealment? I could only sense a vague presence!*

There were many possibilities for who this person hiding in the dark might be.

Yet Mountain Lord He could only vaguely sense someone.

Was it a Demon General’s technique? Or one of the Demonic Faction, or the Sorcerer Palace? Or was it an outsider? The outsiders coming to my Xia Clan World are mostly well behaved, though, and have no need to come and offend me. For a moment, countless questions filled Mountain Lord He’s mind.

.....

As Xue Ying left, he began contemplating over the previous events.

The two Demigods who have condensed a Deity Heart in my Xia Clan are Faction Head Si Kong Yang and Mountain Lord He. While Faction Head Si Kong Yang could not discover me, Mountain Lord He did! Xue Ying thought. Maybe it's related to the True Deity Heart which they condensed. Faction Head Si Kong Yang's Deity Heart is flame-related and veered towards the end of an offensive spectrum, while Mountain Lord He's is spell-related and more of a domain type.

One focuses on overbearing power, the other on domains.

Maybe that is the reason Mountain Lord He could sense me, judged Xue Ying. With this, I can now start my investigation!

Xue Ying had gone to the Water Daoist Faction and the Black White Deity Mountain early in the morning, which allowed him to have enough time to accompany his family for breakfast when he returned.

“I’ll be entering closed-door cultivation.” Xue Ying told his family directly at the dining table. “Don’t reveal this to anyone.”

“Oh.”

“Alright.”

Everyone at the table nodded. To them, nothing a Transcendent did could ever be truly strange.

“Xue Ying, how long are you planning to stay behind the doors?” asked his mother, Mo Yang Yu.

“About ten years. I’ll come out once every year,” Xue Ying replied.

“That long? Remember to take care of yourself when you cultivate. Don’t force it too much,” Mo Yang Yu reminded him.

“You should’ve stopped before those two sentences. You haven’t even become a Legend rank mage yet, but you still plan to give pointers to our son on how to cultivate?” Dong Bo Lie laughed beside her.

“Why can’t I give some pointers?” Mo Yang Yu glared at him, causing Dong Bo

Lie to immediately retreat.

Xue Ying laughed. As his parents got older, their personalities became even more vibrant. They were both already over 100 years of age.

Jing Qiu suspiciously looked towards Xue Ying. She did not believe his excuse of going into closed-door cultivation for ten years. Before, Xue Ying had only ever gone into close-door cultivation for ten day to half a month at the most, and that was considered long for him. Was there any need for him to come out only once a year?

“Disciple Brother Xue Ying, what are you planning to do?” Jing Qiu transmitted her message using the World Energy over to Xue Ying in a pleasant tone.

“Jing Qiu,” Xue Ying transmitted back, “it seems I cannot hide this from you. Alright, I have no plans to hide too much from you. This will be a very important task, related to the eradication of the demon bases!”

“Will it be dangerous?” Jing Qiu felt her heart tightening.

“Rest assured. My only responsibility is to scout the demons,” transmitted Xue Ying. “Alright, you’ll understand sooner or later. I might not even need the whole ten years!”

In theory, ten years was the longest estimated period of time he would need.

Xue Ying’s plan was to search the entire mortal world for the Demon Generals using the most simple and direct method—a blanket search!

He was prepared to do a full search through all the lands, continuing on to the greater area of the ocean if he was unable to find any of the five Demon Generals!

By estimation—

Xue Ying could investigate while flying at high speed. How frightening was his current speed in flight? In a day’s time, excluding rest periods, he could fly across the entire landmass of the Xia Clan five to six times! However, he could only investigate an area of 500 kilometers with each passing, so he would have

to fly through the entire world many times. To completely scour the entire landmass of the Xia Clan, he would need about two to three years.

Every day, he would fly for five hours, and then rest for another hour. These rest periods existed because of mental fatigue, as well as the need to consume Origin Stones.

After all, it would be truly arduous for him to search every corner for as much as five continuous hours. On top of that, Xue Ying had about 1.5 million kilograms of Origin Stones which he needed in order to improve his fleshy body to the middle stage Saint realm as soon as possible. To do so, he needed to consume a total of two million kilograms of Origin Stones. Although his fleshy body could absorb energy much faster than his Dantian Qi Sea, he could still only absorb a little over 500 kilograms of Origin stones per day. By spending half an hour absorbing them every day, he would need around five years to finish absorbing them!

“Let’s begin!”

Xue Ying had neither worries nor concerns.

Of the seven Deity warriors, he had placed the Black Rat in charge of guarding his little brother, Qing Shi. Having watched his friends die one by one, Xue Ying was truly scared that one day he would receive grievous news regarding his own brother. That would truly be too large of a shock to his parents. Therefore, he left behind the Deity warrior specialized in defense—the Black Rat—to protect his little brother.

The White Fog Ape, Wu Lei, as well as the second brother, third sister, and the fourth and fifth brother of the Five Shadows were all stationed in the Snowrock Castle to guard the people there! With them there, the entire place would be extremely secure! Even if his parents were to visit other places, the second brother and third sister would follow them in the dark.

Jing Qiu was even less of a concern as she had the strongest Deity warrior provided by the Xia Clan protecting her. She had also a protective treasure and was a Transcendent mage.

Xue Ying himself had brought the leader of the Five Shadows, and the green armored protector with him! He had taken them as a precaution, in case a

Demon General was too powerful and could attack him within the Mirage. Thus, he could use the Deity warriors to retaliate instead! The Gold Devil of the Five Shadows had the strongest offensive power among them.

.....

Hu hu hu~

Day and night, he would fly out at about 150 kilometers underground. Of course, since he was in the Mirage, his flight could not be obstructed by any obstacle.

In the Xia Clan World, as a mortal world and part of the material world, the deeper one went underground, the more they would be obstructed. Usually, at about 50 kilometers underground, there would be thick layers of rock. Beneath that was a layer of magma, and even deeper were unseen obstacles. The entire underground space was like a body of repulsion.

The Crimson Rock Mountain had been able to penetrate through the material world's outermost layer and through the mortal world's outer membrane before finally stopping at a depth of 5,000 kilometers underground!

To have penetrated to such a deep location, one could tell how mighty it was.

If I move deeper than 150 kilometers underground, obstructions will start forming from the laws. The Demon Generals could not possibly reach a depth lower than 150 kilometers under the surface. That was Xue Ying's reasoning for deciding to fly at 150 kilometers beneath the ground while searching for the demons.

With a range of 500 kilometers, he could not relax his mind at all while flying! Only during the night would he have a respite of about an hour. During this time, he would consume Origin Stones and have his meal while relaxing.

Day after day...

In the blink of an eye, three months had passed.

On a certain day, at noon...

Xue Ying continued his search by flying underground inside the Mirage. In the blink of an eye, he moved as fast as lightning to a position 50 kilometers away

from his starting point. That was also part of the reason why he decided to conduct a blanket search on the entire Xia Clan World!

“Mn?” Xue Ying suddenly stopped, revealing a look of astonishment.

The Mirage reflected upon reality...

Ahead of him and to the left was a giant building. It was built underneath a mountain, atop a lake of magma. It was much bigger than the Black Wind Deity Palace.

Investigating, he found that in one of the torture chamber within this huge structure, there was a shackled male. His skin had been marked with a seal, and he seemed to have fainted.

“Pu Yang Bo?” Xue Ying opened his eyes wide in disbelief. This person who was locked and shackled, was none other than the person the Xia Clan thought to be dead—Pu Yang Bo!

|

Chapter 18 – Pleased

Hu, hu, hu... Pu Yang Bo's breathing was really weak, but as a Transcendent, he managed to keep himself awake.

Zhi ya.

The gates of the torture chamber were pushed open, and a stooping old man walked in. As soon as he entered, he began chanting a curse. Soon, the seals on Pu Yang Bo's skin began lighting up. Streams of black Qi were visible on the surface of these seals, and vague signs of a black skull appeared on them. Pu Yang Bo could not control himself as he shouted in agony.

"Ahhh, kill me! If you dare, just kill me! I won't join you. Never! Kill me, ah, kill me!" Pu Yang Bo howled in grief as he cursed out his anger.

"I, as a mere servant, would never dare to kill such a great Transcendent." The stooping old man laughed. His voice sounded as if it were squeezed out from his throat—dry, rough, ear-piercing. "I am merely following orders!"

"Damn, damn."

Pu Yang Bo cursed out amidst his anguished wailing.

Although he was a Transcendent, his soul had been locked. He could neither use Qi, nor could he operate World Energy.

Xi Dong. Xi Dong, I'm really sorry. I'm so sorry. I, I am truly not willing. Not willing! Pu Yang Bo's greatest heartache was due to the female Transcendent he had successfully courted—Xu Dong. She was a Transcendent mage, younger than him just by a bit. As the war with the demons started, the Transcendents truly did not even know whether they would die soon or not. It was during that time that Xi Dong decided to let go of her apprehensions and be together with Pu Yang Bo.

The two of them were truly happy and in love with each other.

Pu Yang Bo was ecstatic. He would always boast to his friends—Yu Feng, Zhang Peng, and Xue Ying!

But where was he now?

I'm doomed.

Doomed... The moment my communication wristband shattered, the Xia Clan should have announced my death, right? I'm a dead person. Even if I were to suddenly 'revive', I would most likely end up being suspected. They would certainly not allow me to go back, even if I were to live forever in the dark.

Damn, damn. Pu Yang Bo felt as if insects were eating away at his heart.

At that moment—

“How is it? Did this brat decide to give in?” resounded a voice. One could only see the figure of a male garbed in gray and enveloped in black fog walking in.

“Master Bing, he hasn’t given in. He only wishes to die now!” the stooped old man respectfully answered. He was merely an ordinary mage, while this gray-robed male was a Transcendent.

“Leave first,” ordered the gray-robed male.

“Yes.” The stooping old man left the room obediently.

The gray-robed male closed the metal gates. Only then did the surrounding black fog reveal a cold face. This figure was no other than the oldest disciple brother within the Crimson Cloud Mountain World, as well as the person Chi Qiu Bai deemed to not have any hope of grasping a True Meaning—Situ Hong.

“Situ Hong!” The shackled Pu Yang Bo raised his head suddenly, sending a savage look towards Situ Hong. He gritted his teeth before saying, “You’re still coming? In just a short three months, you came here three times!”

“I just love seeing your pitiful figure. Seeing you grit your teeth makes it even more delightful.” Situ Hong sneered by the side. “Back in the Crimson Cloud Mountain weren’t you the one always trying to go against me? Haha, those who go against me will never see a good end. Rest assured, you are merely the first! In the future, more Transcendents will come to join you!”

“You will definitely be discovered. At that point, I’m sure the Xia Clan will not forgive you!” Pu Yang Bo’s eyes were filled with hatred. The moment he thought of how many Transcendents had been captured by this traitor, he started getting increasingly more angry.

“Discovered? Haha, did you manage to discover me?” Situ Hong’s eyes were filled with madness. “I will choose carefully. I’ll be slowly capturing one every dozen years, and after hundreds of years, I will have already grabbed a hold of more than ten! By then, my efforts will be even more prominent!”

“You traitor! Our Xia Clan has treated you so well. And yet, you decide to betray us and harm our Transcendents!” Pu Yang Bo’s voice was becoming hoarse.

“Hmph, mph. Chi Qiu Bai, Si Kong Yang, did they think anything of me?” Situ Hong laughed. “They didn’t give a damn. In their eyes, Dong Bo Xue Ying was the most important figure! However, just as Chi Qiu Bai said, my cultivation started getting slower and slower. I might have very well ended up being killed by the Qi Avatars of those rank five demons during the war. In that case, why would I no just throw in my support to the Demonic Faction!”

“But the issue of the demon bases has already been solved by Xue Ying!” Pu Yang Bo angrily shouted.

“I had already joined the Demonic Faction by then.” Situ Hong sneered. “And you better not dare talk about Dong Bo Xue Ying!”

Seeing how Xue Ying was becoming stronger...

Situ Hong felt even angrier in his heart! *Damn, why did this Xue Ying not eliminate those demon bases earlier? Did he wait until I joined the Demonic Faction to start eradicating them?*

“Pu Yang Bo, I suggest that you just obediently join us. If not...well, what use is there in dying?” Situ Hong said.

“Even if I were to join you, I’d remain forever in the darkness. In that case, I might as well just die!” Pu Yang Bo gritted his teeth. “You want me to join you? Dream on!”

“So what if you continue living in the dark? At that point, you can think of a

way to bring that woman of yours, that Transcendent Mage, Xi Dong over... If you do that, won't you two be together again?" Situ Hong smiled.

"Get out!" Pu Yang Bo's expression became savage. "I won't allow you to touch Xi Dong. Never!"

"Ze, ze, ze... the two of you are still quite lovey-dovey. For the sake of your infatuation, Disciple Brother Pu Yang, I'll be a good brother and help you and Sister Xi Dong." Situ Hong's laughter became even brighter.

"You will die. You will definitely die!" Pu Yang Bo felt was in extreme pain.

"The Demonic Faction's torture methods are truly too weak. Three months in, and you have yet to give in. Don't worry, the Demonic Faction has been passing on its inheritances for so many ages. I trust that there are even more methods of torture designed by those mages who comprehended darkness and annihilation!" said Situ Hong. "It will take more than a hundred years to go through all these different methods of torture! Even I get scared at the thought of a hundred years of torture. If, by then, you will have yet to give up, you don't have to worry, your body will be useable in experiments by those mad mages! Even when your body crumbles apart, your soul would still be usable in experiments. They will certainly not be wasted by the Demonic Faction!"

"You will certainly be revealed. You will die. Definitely. This happiness of yours will be short-lived." Pu Yang Bo continued roaring something like a curse.

"Hmph, mph. Nobody will find out! Other than the high priest and you, nobody has the knowledge that I am one of the Demonic Faction." Situ Hong laughed. "It is impossible for my identity to be revealed!"

Situ Hong was truly delighted.

"I don't know why, but..."

"Seeing the agony disciple brother is going through, those pitiable cries are making me very, very happy! A shame that the person locked here isn't Dong Bo Xue Ying instead. Were it the brightest star amongst those disciple brothers and sisters at the Crimson Cloud Mountain—Dong Bo Xue Ying—locked here right now, I would have been even happier!" Situ Hong revealed his true feelings and expressions.

None of his vile thoughts, selfishness and cruelty in his heart were being hidden now!

.....

In the Mirage.

The black-robed teenager, Xue Ying, was currently watching this scenes with a cold look!

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Chapter 19 – Discovery

Situ Hong? He actually turned traitor and joined the Demonic Faction! Xue Ying coldly swept through the scene before unhurriedly enveloping the enormous structure inside his zone of observation.

Very soon.

The structure that appeared within his observation region was akin to a crimson coloured, flat-shaped castle. There were six sharp points on the edges of the structure. It spanned a total of 250 kilometers, and was five kilometers tall! Such a castle could already be as big as a ‘county’ of the Xia Clan! How big was 250 kilometers from one end to another end? It was much bigger than the Black Wind Deity Palace! A city with such a huge area could allow hundreds of millions of people to live casually.

“Mn?” Xue Ying’s vision soon panned towards the strongest existence within this castle.

Within a blood-colored hall.

There was a figure enveloped in black fog seated at the highest point.

“Enter!” said the figure.

A cloud of vapor appeared which condensed into a white-robed female who respectfully greeted, “High Priest!”

High Priest?

Xue Ying was startled. The High Priest was no other than the Demigod holding the highest status within the Demonic Faction. *The Demonic Faction has always hidden in the dark, and before this, we hadn’t even found out who the High Priest of this generation is. Who would have thought that I would actually have*

the opportunity to find out his identity. The white-robed female also feels extraordinary. I didn't see her before. It would seem that she is not an ordinary life-form. Maybe she is a Deity warrior?

Xue Ying watched carefully. Due to the presence of the black fog, he was temporarily unable to see who that High Priest was.

"What is the matter," said the figure surrounded by black fog.

"Situ Hong turned up again," the white-robed female said. "He came to tease Pu Yang Bo. This was already the third visit in the last three months. High Priest, I think that Situ Hong is not determined to hide myself. I am afraid that he might just end up destroying the great plans of our Demonic Faction! He is one of Xia Clan's Transcendents, and who knows when he might just reveal the existence of our Demonic Faction! The Xia Clan might even tail him to find some of our faction's secrets."

The figure covered in black fog replied, "This Situ Hong's temperament is indeed quite poor, and he will not accomplish great things in the future! But, you can rest assured; he will listen to my orders! Every time he came here, it was through the space arrays. Furthermore, he does not know many secrets pertaining to our Demonic Faction, so he could not even reveal any of them. Furthermore, he is one of the Transcendents who lived within the Red Cloud Mountain World of the Xia Clan. Through him, we might even be able to capture several of the Xia Clan's geniuses! You should know how vital the joint plan between our Demonic Faction and the Sorcerer Palace is. Eliminating any of the geniuses of the Xia Clan is a similarly great contribution!"

"I understand. I came here merely to remind High Priest!" the white-robed female said.

"Go. Continue your observations, and remember to report any news to me!" ordered the figure surrounded by black fog.

"Yes." The white-robed female immediately condensed into vapor before leaving the place.

The black fog that covered the figure seated at the highest position soon dissipated, revealing who he was!

Crimson robe and crimson brows, eyes filled with killing intent.

Xi Yun. Xue Ying was shocked. He... he is actually the High Priest?

Xi Yun was one the Elders of the Xia Clan. He viewed any evil as his archenemy, and had always served the Xia Clan with all his heart. That, in turn, caused him to be regarded with great respect! Palace Head Chen had also held him in high regards! Xi Yun had even controlled part of the territory of the Infernal Palace. Of course, the most crucial parts were still being controlled solely by the Palace Head of the generation! Even so, everyone knew just how great the trust put in Xi Yun was.

Previously, when Xue Ying went to eradicate the demon bases, one of the Demigods aiding Xue Ying from the outside was Xi Yun!

“He is actually the High Priest of this generation?” Xue Ying did not dare believe, but facts were facts. The black fog surrounding Xi Yun’s figure was none other than dark Demonic Energy.

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Xi Yun continued sitting on his throne, closing his eyes as he started meditating. He was extremely careful.

Usually, whenever he acted as the High Priest, he would conceal his identity even when corresponding with a Deity warrior! Right now, in the entire Xia Clan...there was nobody who knew him to be the High Priest! The previous High Priest had known of it, but he had died long ago!

As long as there was nobody around, or whenever he was on safe ground, he would remove the Demonic Energy surrounding him.

Hong hong hong~

As he continued cultivating, layers of scales started sprouting on his figure. Two sharp horns began growing out of his head, and his aura became even more vigorous.

The dark Demonic Energy allowed one to attain a tyrannical demonic body.

I would have never thought that the High Priest of the Demonic Faction would actually be Xi Yun. Xue Ying continued observing other places.

Soon afterwards.

His attention was attracted to a certain area.

A sealed cultivation room was located deep within the huge castle. The room was extremely large, covering an area of about 500 meters. At its center, a bronze coffin, fully 20 meters long and six meters wide, was enveloped in the dark aura of Demonic Energy! This coffin was shackled by a total of 13 chains extending to different corners of the room.

Held by these 13 chains, the bronze coffin was fixed rigidly in mid-air.

Although the coffin was sealed completely shut, the Mirage could still reflect its contents.

A human figure was currently laying inside! This figure lay in a solution made of various types of plants, skeletons and various other materials. A full eight meters tall, this figure was covered completely with crimson scales. He was even slowly breathing, and every time he did, the coffin would tremble faintly.

Who is he? Xue Ying frowned. His height implies that he is not of the human race. A native Transcendent? Doesn't look like one! Demon? The five Demon Generals do not look like this. Why is he lying here, motionless?

.....

Xue Ying investigated for a while before continuing his investigation of other places.

This castle was really too mystical.

He discovered a Deity weapon, and even large amounts of Demigod weapons. There had even been treasures of unknown purposes, and zones that had areas with space he did not understand! He came across several terrifying arrays which must have been set up by certain powerful Transcendent mages of the Demonic Faction from the past. From his observations, the arrays in there were even more powerful than those in the Black Wind Deity Palace!

Even greater amounts of secrets were hidden in the books, though they were merely snapshots of the real ones. Most likely, their complete versions must have been kept within storage treasures.

Hua hua hua~

Within a certain region of the castle, a lake was situated inside a hall. In this lake, crimson Deity Energy was flowing about, always moving.

In another part of the castle, a huge sculpture of a head was on the wall of a hall!

This head had two horns, and scales were plated on top of its slim face! His eyes were akin to two blood-jade sculptures.

The bust of a Demonic God!

This Demonic God bust was emitting a wave of suppression that made even Xue Ying's heart tremble within the Mirage.

Great Demonic God! Xue Ying immediately affirmed. The usual sculptures of Demonic Gods would not have such a terrifying effect. After all, his current combat power was much higher than in the past. The only possibility was that the bust was of a so-called Great Demonic God which the Demonic Faction believed in, and the one who had constantly fought with the Temple of the Earth God. Only he could be so powerful!

This is the Great Demonic God's Devil's Well placed in our Xia Clan World? Xue Ying's eyes brightened. *The Devil's Well is the most important object placed by a Deity in the mortal world, with the purpose of spreading his religion. Certainly, the Devil's Well would only be placed in the safest place!*

Even the High Priest is located here!

Even Deity weapons, Deity warriors, and the humanoid life-form within the bronze coffin which I couldn't even recognize are here? There were also many other places which I don't understand. Xue Ying's eyes were filled with excitement. *Other than the legendary Demonic Faction Headquarters, I doubt that any other location could be so powerful and terrifying!*

The Demonic Faction Headquarters!

This was the rumored headquarters of the Demonic Faction which had been hidden in the dark ever since so long ago. In the same manner, the Water Daoist Faction, the Black White Deity Mountain, and the Infernal Palace all had

their own headquarters!

Only the headquarters of the Demonic Faction had remained a mystery!

The Xia Clan had never found the Demonic Faction Headquarters even after searching for it over a long period of time. If the five Demon Generals were merely a threat to the Xia Clan for a single generation, then the Demonic Faction represented a threat to the Xia Clan for countless generations!

Until today!

This Demonic Faction Headquarters had finally been discovered! And it was discovered by the very first Transcendent in the history of the Xia Clan who grasped hold of the True Meaning of Mirage!

The Mirage reflected reality!

In the mortal world, not even the Demonic Faction Headquarters could resist the reflection of the Mirage.

“I’ve actually discovered the Demonic Faction Headquarters!” Even if Xue Ying could usually keep his calm, he could not suppress his current excitement. This was a huge matter which would be forever recorded in the annals of the Xia Clan! In this generation, the Demonic Faction that had been hiding in the dark for so long had finally been discovered by Xue Ying!

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